

Hafa Adai!

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TORRES WARNS:

'Partial shutdown a possibility'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres yesterday morning warned the community about the possibility of a partial government shutdown and that he is fully blaming it on the House of Representatives' leadership for taking so long to pass the budget for the government's operations in Fiscal Year 2023.

See **PARTIAL** on **Page 4**



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, left, and Gilbert Birnbrich, counsel for the Office of the Governor, held a press conference yesterday morning about the administration's preparation for a possible partial government shutdown.

Criminal court case vs Torres to resume after '22 elections

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has granted the stipulation between Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' defense team and the Office of the Attorney General to

continue the status originally set for Sept. 26 to sometime after the November elections.

Yesterday, Superior Court Judge Pro Temp Alberto Tolentino granted the stipulation, or agreement, be-

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House rejects Senate's version of budget bill

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) explains the reasons why the House should reject the Senate's version of a budget bill for the government's operations in Fiscal Year 2023 at yesterday's emergency session at the House chamber.

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With 14 voting "yes" and five voting "no," the House of Representatives rejected yesterday afternoon the Senate's version of a budget bill for the

» **Villagomez, Hofschneider appoint respective members to conference committee**

government's operations in Fiscal Year 2023.

Following the rejection, House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) and Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) appointed

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INSIDE



LOCAL

Car enthusiast Mark Caacbay won three categories in his third Island Summer Auto-Fest competition.

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ASIA

Japan prepared for a rare and controversial state funeral for assassinated former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

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LIFE & STYLE

Abigail E. Disney has been critical of the company that bears her name before.

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Local

Benavente: Prevailing wage is federally mandated

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Although the prevailing wage survey, and the compliance or noncompliance of the survey, falls under the jurisdiction of the CNMI Department of Commerce, the CNMI Department of labor is open to assisting CNMI workers who may have any grievances in relation to

» 'DOL is ready assist with grievances'

this survey.

In an interview with CNMI Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, she expresses that the prevailing wage survey is a federally mandated survey that must be followed by all employers.

She said although DOL does not have any say in the enforcement of the prevailing wage survey, the department is open to helping workers, in any way they can, who believe they are not being paid according to the survey.

"This is a federally mandated survey which we must follow. We really don't have a voice or a say, in the han-

dling of the prevailing wage or its survey results. We do read the data and we read the reports and try to tie that in with our business community members who come to our department and ask for help in terms of how much to pay their employee. So that's how we assist but as far as

compiling the minimum wage, that is done strictly by the Department of Commerce," she said.

"We can assist a claimant who wants to profile a labor complaint for example. It's filed here at the Department of



Benavente

Labor with our investigation team where we really come to terms with what is supposed to be done versus what is being done or allegedly not being done," Benavente added.

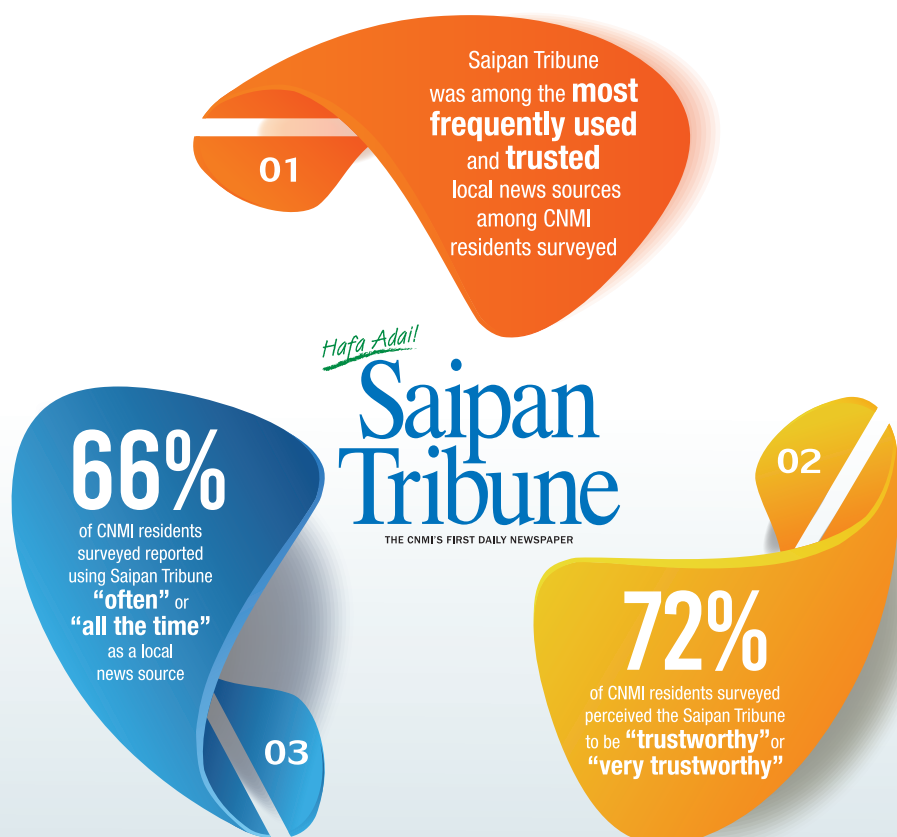
For those who want to file their prevailing wage griev-

ances with the Department of Labor, you can visit their office on Capitol Hill or contact the department at +1 670-664-3298.

According to an online definition, the prevailing wage survey is conducted by the Department of Commerce to determine a state's prevailing wage rate.

The prevailing wage rate is the basic hourly rate paid on public works projects to a majority of workers engaged in a particular craft, classification or type of work within the locality and in the nearest labor market area (if a majority of such workers are paid at a single rate).

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NEWS USE AND PERCEPTIONS

Use and Perceived Trustworthiness of Media as Sources of Local News*

*Source:
i Minagáhet – Ellet: Reporting the Truth in the Northern Mariana Islands by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council
A study regarding news media use and perceptions, news media literacy, civic engagement, and community values in the Northern Mariana Islands

<https://www.nmhcouncil.org/mediasurvey2022/>

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Cooperating source is seeking disclosure of OAG's informants

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The defense counsel in the case of a man accused of selling methamphetamine or "ice" wants the court to order the Office of the Attorney general to disclose who their informants were prior to trial.

Qiu Yongqiang, through his attorney Janet King, has filed a motion asking the Superior Court to compel the Office of the Attorney General to reveal the identity of its informants.

In her motion to compel, King said the Commonwealth intends to prove at trial that a "Chinese male" who handed methamphetamine to a Drug Enforcement Task Force Cooperating Source No. 831495 or CS and Cooperating Defendant No. 045779 or CD on two occasions was Qiu.

The lawyer noted that on April 12, 2022, a Chinese male known to the CS as "Jason" handed the CS approximately 0.7 gross gram of methamphetamine.

On this date, King stated, a Drug Enforcement Task Force rode in CS' vehicle.

On April 27, 2022, a Chinese male known to the CD as "Brother" handed the CD two small Ziploc bags with approximately 1.6 gross grams of methamphetamine.

Later, the CD identified "Brother" as Qiu. No DETF officer accompanied the

CD during this exchange, King said.

"CS and CD played prominent roles in the arrest and prosecution of the defendant and therefore their identities are "relevant and helpful" and should be disclosed, King said," she stated.

King claims, based on these arguments, that her client could prove that CS would contradict DETF's Cris Deleon Guerrero's version of the events or exculpate the defendant.

King said the defendant is entitled to the disclosure of CD's identity because the informant is the only witness in

a position to amplify or contradict the testimony of the defendant.

"Similarly alarming is that the CD identified the Chinese male in the transaction on April 27, 2022 as 'Brother' [but] there is no other information how CD later identified 'Brother' as this defendant," the lawyer stated.

The court is set to commence Qui's jury trial on Oct. 11, 2022.

According to court documents, following a "buy-walk" operation conducted by the Department of Public Safety-Drug Enforcement Task Force in April 2022, Qiu was identified by informers as a drug dealer who sold methamphetamine.

Qiu, 34, is currently facing charges with trafficking of a controlled substance.



King

'House budget bill irresponsible, borders on negligence'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan said Friday that essentially the House of Representatives' version of the budget bill for the government's operations in Fiscal Year 2023 as it pertains to Tinian is irresponsible and borders on negligence.

Speaking during a budget hearing held in the Tinian courthouse, Aldan said the House bill version terminates current Tinian municipality employees and reduces the municipality's operations to a level that will definitely affect safety of the people and the delivery of the essential public services.

Aldan said there are only seven days from Friday from the end of fiscal year and that tremendous pressure will be placed on the legislature to pass a budget on time to prevent a partial government shutdown.

"I would like to ask the Senate to rise above the politics and prioritize continuing employment of the people to a level where we can effectively deliver public services," he said.

Last Aug. 27, the House passed a budget bill to appropriate \$109.7 million out of \$150.4 million in total budgetary resources, and \$52.6 million from the American Rescue Plan Act funds, for government operations in FY 2023.

With the backing of their legal counsel Joe Bermudes' opinion, stating, among other things, that it is only the governor who has the authority to allocate or expend ARPA funds, the Senate on Friday unanimously passed their version of a budget bill.

Speaking before the Senate voted to pass their version of the budget, Aldan said as a former member of the Legislature, he truly understands the politics behind the formulation and passing of the budget during an election year.

However, Aldan said, there should never be any reason for political differences to cause the termination and financial hardship of current government employees.

Unfortunately, he said, this is exactly what the House's version of the budget is.

The mayor said that, last Sept. 16, the House Ways and Means Committee had a press conference justifying their budget.

He said in that press conference, the House majority said that their budget will not have an effect on existing employees of Tinian and Rota.

Aldan said the House majority members continue to defend the budget to the media insisting that they did their due diligence in formulating this budget.

"As the mayor of Tinian, I can state with absolute certainty that this is not correct," said the mayor as he cited two examples to prove that the House did not do their due diligence.

He said first, the House version gives the Department of Commerce three full time employees, but the Tinian Commerce has four FTEs since the beginning of FY 2022.

Aldan said under the House's version, those civil

See **HOUSE** on Next Page



Aldan



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AS OF AUGUST 22, 2022

12
CASES PER DAY

AVERAGE CASES
INCREASED BY
1267%
(FROM 2 WEEKS AGO)

DEATH
DECREASED BY
30%

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF PANDEMIC:

1 OF 4
RESIDENTS HAVE
BEEN INFECTED

12,953
TOTAL REPORTED
CASES

39
DEATHS

Sablan: OAG says no enactment of law required over ARPA

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan (R-Saipan) disclosed yesterday afternoon that the Office of the Attorney General provided a letter to the House of Representatives, stating that for the Commonwealth to receive funds under the American Rescue Plan Act, an enactment of Commonwealth law is not required.

At the senators' press conference in the Senate chamber, Sablan said with the OAG's letter, it was then

that the Executive Branch and the Torres administration went ahead and started to expend ARPA funds in satisfying the requirements of the ARPA spending plan that was approved by the U.S. Treasury.

In the slide presentation, Sablan noted that the House also had a separate legislation last year to appropriate ARPA funds in its entirety when the ARPA funds were initiated and given to the CNMI government.

Aside from Sablan, Sens. Karl King-Nabors (R-Tinian) and Fran-

cisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) also held a slide presentation about the Senate's budget bill version during the press briefing. Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) also explained what the Senate and the House did in coming up with their respective budget bills.

Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) explained why they called a press conference as he also thanked minority members Sens. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) and Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-

Saipan) for voting "yes" on the Senate's budget bill version.

"Although they did have some questions, at the end of the day they agreed with the product of the Fiscal Affairs Committee," Hofschneider said.

Sablan said Torres identified \$32 million in ARPA funds in the FY 2023 budget, but the House allocated an additional \$20 million totaling \$52 million in ARPA funds.

Sablan said Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig clarified during the Senate session that the \$20 million allocated by the House from the Medicaid reimbursement is no lon-

ger available.

He said funds were used to issue a second stimulus for the CNMI, which was highly encouraged and supported by the House to provide additional assistance in the community.

Sablan said Atalig also acknowledged that it is a requirement for the state to submit a spending plan, for reporting purposes, to the U.S. Treasury on a quarterly basis detailing how funds are being spent in the Commonwealth in accordance with the ARPA guidelines.

Saipan Tribune will publish more information about the Senate press conference today, Thursday.

Open Mic at Marianas Creations

Open Mic is a great way to meet fellow musicians, comedians, story tellers, magicians, artists, performers, writers, singers, and others to share talents and learn from each other. Whatever level of expertise you have in your field you are welcome to join our open mic night and share your talent with the community. Marianas Creations offers a creative space where community artists can get together to share their talents every Wednesday from 7pm to 9pm. Anyone who performs will also receive a free appreciation drink from our regular menu.

Marianas Creations provides guitar, mics, sound box, mic stands, TV,

and more for participating artists. You are also welcome to bring your own equipment to the open mic night. In addition to supporting the creative community of the Marianas, you will also be inspiring our young generation to explore more areas of art and learn new skills. It's also a great opportunity to seek suggestions on anything that you might be working on in a low-key environment without stress or anxiety.

Marianas Creations carries a variety of products and artwork only made on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. They are currently working with 50-plus artists from the Mariana Islands. Other than art they also serve the

only Nitro Cold Brew coffee on island made from local coffee, as well as Saipan-made ginger and cucumber sodas, crafty cocktails that have locally sourced ingredients in them, seasonal fruit cocktails from seasonal fruits, and craft beers. They serve snacks and a unique plate of the day during their business hours.

Marianas Creations is located next to Everest Kitchen and Bridge Capital LLC on Micro Beach Road, Garapan. Its business hours are Monday-Saturday from 11am to 9pm. They can be reached on Facebook (Marianas Creations Saipan), Instagram (marianascreationssaipan), by phone 783-1924, or email marianascreations670@gmail.com and website www.marianascreations.com. **(PR)**

BUDGET

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their respective members to the conference committee.

Conference committee refers to a joint committee appointed by the House speaker and the Senate president to resolve disagreements on a specific bill.

In this case, the conference committee will be working on a deadline to ensure that they come up with a budget bill that the Legislature will pass and bring to the table of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres before the fiscal year ends on Sept. 30, 2022.

Villagomez appointed Ways and Committee chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) as chairperson of the House conference committee, and Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) and Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan) as members. Vice speaker Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) was appointed as an alternate.

Hofschneider appointed Senate Fiscal Affairs chair Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) as chairperson of the Senate conference committee, and Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan (R-Saipan) as vice chairperson, and Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian) as member. Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) was appointed as an alternate.

The five representatives who voted "no" for the rejection of the

Senate budget bill version were minority leader Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), Roy Christopher A. Ada (R-Saipan), Joseph A. Flores (Ind-Saipan), Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian), and Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan). Demapan, Ada, and San Nicolas voted for the passage of the House's budget bill last Aug. 27.

During discussions of the Senate budget bill version, Rep. Manglona, who is the author of the House's budget bill, 22-116, said the House legislation was a product of the Ways and Means Committee and was passed unanimously by the House.

Manglona said the House took time to review Torres' proposal, held numerous budget hearings, and that despite not having enough resources to address all the requests made by the departments and agencies, they took every effort to ensure the government was not left to sit idle.

"The governor's proposal lacked the resources to allow our hardworking people to provide services to our people," he said.

Manglona said the proposal would have left the departments and agencies to beg the administration for any funding needed to function.

He said the Senate's version of the budget essentially reverted their version of the budget back to what the governor had proposed.

Manglona said the House did not jeopardize anyone's jobs as they

were simply trying to give the various departments and agencies an operations budget so that they can perform their jobs.

"To quote my Senate colleagues, it's common sense," he said.

Manglona said they have a few days to pass a budget in order to avoid a shutdown and that he stands ready to work with the Senate to address concerns in the budget.

"But for now, for all these reasons that I've mentioned, I cannot support the Senate's budget version of the budget and I ask my colleagues to reject HB 22-116, HD2, SS1," he said.

Demapan said there is one point of contention that he believes they need to clarify for future budget sessions to come.

Demapan said that is the advice they're getting from their legal counsel because he does not know who is right between the Senate and House counsels.

"But what I do know is both counsels work for the same Legislative Bureau and two houses are getting two different pieces of advice," he said.

Demapan said that is causing confusion, not just amongst the members of the legislature, but the public as well as they look in and see a divided legislature based on legal interpretation.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

PARTIAL

From Page 1

Torres made the warning at a press conference held in the Governor's Office, or a few hours before the House rejected the Senate's version of the budget bill.

The governor said he wants to inform the community that if the House is going to reject the Senate's version of the budget bill that leaves him a couple of days to review it.

"I am legitimately warning the community that there might be a potential shutdown and I am 100% blaming it on the leadership of the House because it took them this long to pass this budget," he said.

Torres has until Oct. 1, 2022 to enact a new budget bill into law or risk a partial shutdown of government operations in an election year.

The governor said it is not fair for any government employee to be worrying whether there's going to be a shutdown or not. "I want all the government employees to know that I'm very disappointed with the House leadership," he said.

Torres said this budget proposal has been given to the House on April 1, 2022 and it took them all the way to Aug. 27, 2022, a Saturday, to pass it.

He said the House transmitted that budget bill to the Senate on Aug. 29, 2022.

The governor said the Senate unanimously passed their version of the budget Friday, or less than a month after receiving it from the House.

"Obviously I want to give them [senators] praise and praise all of them that it took them less than a month to come out with their version and they passed a budget that is best for the community and best for the government," he said.

Torres said it is not fair for the House to hold this budget bill and to

pass it in late August and then expect the governor to just sign it in a day.

"It's very negligent on their part. And I want to thank the Senate for passing a balanced budget," he said.

Regarding the partial shutdown, Torres said they have to go back to the definition on what or who are essential employees.

"I don't know on top of my head the actual number, but based on the definition, I think public health offices continue to move forward and law enforcement [officers] continue as well," he said.

Torres said under the shutdown, there is a definition on who are essential employees and if they are not part of the essential then they don't report to work.

Gilbert Birnrich, counsel for the Office of the Attorney General, disclosed at the same press conference that they are beginning preparations for a potential shutdown.

"We have to be prepared for that. We have certain procedures," said Birnrich, adding that they are meeting with a group of government officials and staff to review and go over the list of essential government employees.

Torres said if the Legislature does not have the authority to reprogram or even program American Rescue Plan Act funds, that should be first out of the question.

He said the second big issue is the Compact Impact funding, which the Legislature does not have the authority to appropriate as well.

"My compromise is that the Senate passed the budget. Whether I agree with it 100%, but it's definitely more balanced than what the House passed," the governor said.

He said how the House majority acted on ARPA is illegal as they have no authority to reprogram or program or decide what percent to use.

"And that's the biggest part, the biggest issue here," Torres said.

HOUSE

From Page 3

service employees will be terminated on Oct. 1st.

He said second, the House version of the budget provides the Tinian Mayor's Office 140 FTEs.

He said, however, the mayor's office has 123 filled FTEs if the Legislature would pass the House version.

Aldan said it is clear that the House did not do due diligence as it pertains

to Tinian's current employees.

"If the House version is passed, it will have dire consequences to many Tinian government employees and their families, which is totally unacceptable," he said.

The mayor also noted that the House's version reduced the Tinian Department of Public Safety budget by nearly \$600,000 or 35%.

"Again, I can't comprehend how such a drastic cut to the most essential department makes any sense," Aldan said.

CRIMINAL

From Page 1

tween the OAG and Torres' defense team to push back the recent court proceedings in Torres' criminal case to sometime after Nov. 28.

"The Commonwealth of the

Northern Mariana Islands and Ralph DeLeon Guerrero Torres, by and through their respective counsels, hereby file this stipulation to continue the Sept. 26, 2022 Status Conference and agree as follows: 1. A Status Conference is currently scheduled for Sept. 26, 2022 at 3pm before Judge Pro Tem Alberto E.

Tolentino. 2. Based on the parties' discussion and the posture of the case, the parties hereby stipulate to continue the Status Conference until sometime after Nov. 28, 2022," the order stated.

In addition, Torres' counsel has decided to waive Torres' right to speedy trial.

'97 Honda Civic DX rocks Island Summer Auto-Fest

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Good things come in threes as 27-year-old car enthusiast Mark Caacbay won three categories in his third Island Summer Auto-Fest competition at the Marianas Business Plaza last Saturday.

His '97 Honda Civic DX won the Best in Show Award, the Best Brand Award from Joeten Motors, and first place in the two-door category.

His car drew crowds of auto enthusiasts, as they looked on

and appreciated Caacbay's build—with his car sporting the only transparent hood in the competition, along with his many one-of-a-kind modifications.

He told *Saipan Tribune* that he has been building modified cars for a "long time" and about his win, he said "I worked hard for it. I got some really rare parts—really hard to get. But at the same time, I'm humble, I worked everything on my own, one by one, with my own hands. It's unbelievable."



LEIGH GASES

Auto enthusiasts look at the display of trucks in the "Outreys" car club area of the 2022 Island Summer Auto-Fest last Saturday in the Marianas Business Plaza.

The competition categories include two-door, four-door, trucks, 4x4, cafe bike, cruiser bike, VIP style, classics, scooter/moped, sound off, and burnout.

The two-door competition's second place winner was Henry Xiong's 2017 Nissan and third place was Richard Angeles' 2012 Nissan.

The Best Brand Award from Triple J was Christopher Meyers' Hyundai Genesis and the Best Brand Award from Atkins Kroll went to David Lizama's Toyota Tacoma.

The four-door contest's first place winner was Casey Hulganga's 2018 Honda Civic, which was second place in the 2021 show. Second place was the 2018 Mazda 3 of Rich Ramos and Kloney Virrey, and the 1998 Honda Civic of Jerome M. Ortuerra took third place.

In the 4x4 category, Jesse Jack Salas' 2008 Jeep Wrangler won first place, Robert Cruz's 2018 Toyota Tacoma was second, and David Liza-

ma's 2019 Toyota Tacoma was third.

The truck category first place winner was Roman Reyes' 1991 Toyota, Gino Dela Cruz's 1973 Datsun 620 took second place, and Jordan N. Basa's 1992 Toyota Hilux placed third.

J.T. Ada's 2008 Scion XB was first place in the VIP style category, while Manny Ada's 2002 Lexus GS300 was second, and Christopher Q.

Meyers' 2021 Genesis G80 was third.

Justine Zapanta's 2010 Toyota 4Runner sounded off its way to first place in the sound off contest, Jhun Echaure's 2017 Hyundai Tucson was second place, and Gerard Indalecio's 2008 Scion XB was third place.

In the cruise bike category, Juan Pocaigue's 1997 Harley Davidson won first place, Mark Borja's 2007 Harley



LEIGH GASES

The cafe bike category winner and lone entry, the Motoguzzi U7 Special, owned by Mark Oria at the 2022 Island Summer Auto-Fest last Saturday in the Marianas Business Plaza.



LEIGH GASES

Mark Caacbay's modified '97 Honda Civic stole the show as he won three categories: Best of Show, Best Brand Award from Joeten Motors, and topped the two-door category in the 2022 Island Summer Auto-Fest.

Davidson Softail Deluxe won second place, and Nathaniel Torres' 2020 Harley Davidson was third place.

In the scooter category, JT Ada's 2004 Honda Ruckus won first place, while Russell Hocog's 2018 Honda Grom came in second.

Mark Louie Oria's 2016 Motoguzzi U7 Special was the only competitor, and winner in the cafe bike category.

Winner of the first burnout competition hosted by NMTEch was James Salalila.

Rodney S. Caballes, Chairman
 Vacant, Vice Chairman
 Joanna C. Adan, Secretary
 Rigo C. Reyes, Treasurer
 Megan C. Mendola, Board Member

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
TINIAN MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD
 Municipality of Tinian and Auguigan

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Friday, September 30, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., at the Tinian Health Center (Director's Office), San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of the Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes
 - September 12, 2022 (Regular Meeting)
 - II. PUBLIC COMMENTS*
 - III. OLD BUSINESS
 - IV. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Review of Fall 2022 Scholarship Applications with Pending Issues
 - B. Review of Appeal Letters and other communication addressed to the Scholarship Board
 - V. MISCELLANEOUS
 - VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - VIII. ADJOURNMENT
- /s/Rodney S. Caballes
Chairman

*We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.
 *Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
 *Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to scheduled meeting for assistance.


Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) relocated to the Administrative Building and Maintenance Facility located in Lowerbase, Saipan across the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Office. In addition, COTA's One-Call/One-Click Transportation Resource Center's contact number has changed to (670) 236-2682 effective August 25, 2022.

For additional information please contact COTA's Administrative Office at (670) 664-2682. Thank you.

Sincerely,
 /s/ **Amalia M. Magofna**
Acting Special Assistant
for Public Transportation



2nd Floor Rm. 216, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
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- Must be fluent in English.
- Monday to Friday 8 to 5. Will need to be available at times on weekends or after hours.

Interested applicants may complete an application or submit a resume at our Saipan office located in the CTSI building, Lower Base, no later than October 4th, 2022. Applications may also be sent to: mpk@dandq-international.com

The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.

D&Q is an equal opportunity employer and has a drug free work environment.
Pre-employment and random drug testing may be required.

Jenson receives Order of the Chamorri Award

For more than half of his adult life, geologist John W. Jenson offered expertise and studied underground drinking water resources in Guam and other parts of the Micronesian region.

Jenson's research and collaborations with his students included mapping the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer, which supplies 80% of the island's drinking water.

Jenson and his students also studied: Pacific Island atoll aquifers, the evolution of limestone island aquifers; long-term saltwater impact on water wells; the reconstruction of the prehistoric climatic conditions of Guam and the west Pacific region; and management and protection of groundwater quality, among other accomplishments, according to a recent University of Guam Board of Regents resolution acknowledging is legacy in science.

Jenson is "the greatest rock star for geology for Guahan," described UOG president emeritus Robert Underwood, as he messaged from Washington, D.C., through acting Gov. Joshua Tenorio.

Recognizing Jenson's contributions to the island and the Western Pacific in general, Tenorio bestowed on Jenson the Ancient Order of the



UOG

John W. Jenson, director and chief geologist of the Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific at the University of Guam, receives the Ancient Order of the Chamorri Award—the highest honor that the Guam governor can give—during a ceremony at the Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex at Adelup last Sept. 26.

Chamorri Award—the highest honor the governor of Guam can give. Tenorio gave the award last Sept. 26 at the Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex in Adelup.

The honor is sparsely given, Tenorio said.

Jenson came to Guam in 1993 as a hydrogeologist and groundwater modeler for UOG's Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific. On Sept.

30, 2022, he will retire from being director and chief geologist of WERI.

Acting UOG president Anita Borja Enriquez described Jenson as one of the most incredible individuals in the UOG community.

"Dr. Jenson has been a longtime advocate for high academic quality, high-quality research and has been instrumental in working with students from our island and our

region to advance their level of research at a level of doctoral dissertations which have enabled students to engage in groundbreaking discoveries, and also to win national awards and advance to graduate-level fellowships that are impressive," Enriquez said.

Jenson gave credit to WERI students, staff, and research partners, as well as government funding support, for what WERI has been able to achieve.

"Good science is a team sport," he said, in part.

He and wife Cheryl are moving to be close to their grandchildren in the states.

Jenson said Guam will always be home in his heart.

Jenson received his Bachelor of Science in Economics degree as a distinguished



UOG

John W. Jenson, center, director and chief geologist of the Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific at the University of Guam, responds to applause at a Sept. 26 ceremony giving him the Ancient Order of the Chamorri Award the highest honor the Guam governor can give. The event was at the Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex at Adelup. To his left is acting UOG president Anita Borja Enriquez and acting Gov. Josh Tenorio, right.

graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1975. He earned a master's degree in Applied Economics from University

of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in 1976; and a Ph.D. in geology from Oregon State University in 1995. (PR)



UOG

Colleagues and peers from within the University of Guam community join John W. Jenson, center, director and chief geologist of the Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific, as he receives the Ancient Order of the Chamorri Award last Sept. 26 at the Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex at Adelup.

Panuelo solicits Peace Corps to return to FSM

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—Federated States of Micronesia President David W. Panuelo wants the return of Peace Corps Volunteers to the islands.

"In so many ways, the Peace Corps' contributions were the greatest testaments to the good and enduring partnership between our two countries. From assisting in the procurement of grants ranging from funding Upward Bound programs to water catchment tanks in remote islands, and from developing health curricula to building sustainable school gardens, and from teaching English and Science in our classrooms

while building capacity with local counterparts to partnering with principals on how to improve our school accreditation processes, Peace Corps

Volunteers—who learn our languages and cultures, who live amongst us and with us as family—remain, by an order of magnitude, the best bridge at uniting peoples and promoting peace,"

Panuelo wrote in his Sept. 25 letter to Carol Spahn, chief executive officer of the U.S. Peace Corps.

"It is not enough, in my

view," the president continued, "for the FSM-U.S. Enduring Partnership to be strictly viewed under the lens of our Compact of Free Association and regional

peace and security; while the Compact is important, and regional security is important, what is ultimately just as important—and risks being forgotten—is the every-

day well-being of our citizens. With the reinstatement of the Peace Corps in the FSM, our two governments and peoples can work closely together to strengthen our FSM-US Enduring Partnership to newer and greater heights."

One of the intended discussions at the forthcoming U.S.-Pacific Summit is on People-Centered Development. It is the hope and intention of the FSM government to ensure that the U.S. Peace Corps hears loudly and clearly that the return of their program to the FSM, and to many other Pacific countries, is essential towards strengthening U.S.-Pacific relations. (PR)



Panuelo




AB Risk Solutions

In cooperation with **AON**

Saipan Operations

Accounting and Administrative Assistant
Min Requirements: A resident with at least associate degree or sufficient experience in accounting and office administration
Please send your resume directly to christopher.lubi@abriskmicronesia.com



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-22-040

A-16 Sewer Lift Station Generator Replacement

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the A-16 Sewer Lift Station Generator Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary for the removal of the existing A-16 Sewer Lift Station 350 KW Generator and Automatic Transfer Switch, procurement of a new 350 KW generator and Automatic Transfer Switch, modification of the existing concrete generator pad to match the new pad size requirement (if needed), restoration of the existing oil containment berm, repair of exhaust & muffler, and equipment start-up and commissioning. The work shall be done in accordance with the Scope of Work and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 180 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 21, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-22-040, A-16 Sewer Lift Station Generator Replacement" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 13, 2022, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of One Hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bonds must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on September 23, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, P&S, Purchasing Technician Senior via email, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

CHCC: Zero hospitalizations, 7 new cases due to COVID-19

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. said as of Sept. 26, 2022 there were zero individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19.

Aside from zero hospitalizations from the period Sept. 18 to 24, CHCC also reported that seven additional individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI total to 13,171 cases; some duplicates were removed.

Of the seven cases recently identified:

- 3 on Sept. 19, 2022
- 1 on Sept. 21, 2022
- 2 on Sept. 22, 2022
- 1 on Sept. 23, 2022

As of Sept. 23, 2022, a total of 24,805 COVID-19 additional/booster vaccine shots have been administered, which equals to 55% of the eligible population; 478 updated COVID-19 booster vaccines have been administered, which equals 1.1% of the eligible population.

A total of 160 COVID-19 tests were conducted from Sept. 18 to 24 2022:

- 9 on Sept. 18, 2022
- 39 on Sept. 19, 2022
- 30 on Sept. 20, 2022
- 24 on Sept. 21, 2022
- 20 on Sept. 22, 2022
- 22 on Sept. 23, 2022
- 16 on Sept. 24, 2022

Of the total cases identified, as of Sept. 24, 2022:

- 13,124 recoveries
- 7 active cases
- 40 COVID-19-related deaths

Identified via:

- 11,995 community testing
- 1,176 travel testing

COVID-19 safe by wearing your mask based on your personal level of risk; washing your hands; watching your distance; avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces; covering coughs and sneezes; cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces daily; be alert for symptoms daily; and get tested for COVID-19.

CHCC said it will pause weekly public reporting of COVID-19 cases but will update the residents of the CNMI should significant developments occur and will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation in the CNMI.

Taking appropriate precautions will help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccination. For more information on how to get COVID-19 primary series or updated booster shots, call (670) 236-8745.

Free COVID-19 testing is available by registering at <https://covidtesting.chcc.health>.

Residents of the CNMI who test positive for COVID-19 may be eligible for treatment by calling (670) 234-8950, ext. 5068, or reporting their positive test result online at www.staysafecnmi.com/self-reporting as soon as possible after testing positive. Residents requesting COVID-19 treatment should fill out the medical questionnaire in the form to get assessed as soon as possible.

Reporting a positive test result online also allows residents to obtain a certificate of quarantine completion, which employers/individuals may use as documentation of a positive test result.

If you have an emergency warning sign (like trouble breathing), seek emergency medical care immediately.

The CNMI is in COVID-19 Community Level Low. Guidelines for residents of the CNMI to consider while we are in COVID-19 Community Level Low:

■ Stay up to date on vaccination, including recommended booster doses. Maintain ventilation improvements.

■ Avoid contact with people who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

■ If you test positive for or suspect you have COV-

ID-19, follow recommendations for isolation.

■ Stay home for at least 5 days and isolate yourself from others in your home.

■ If you have no symptoms, end isolation after day 5.

■ If you have symptoms and your symptoms are improving, end isolation after day 5 if you are fever free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication). If you have symptoms and your symptoms are not improving, continue to isolate until you are fever free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and your symptoms are improving.

■ Wear a high-quality mask if you must be around others at home and in public.

■ Do not share personal household items, like cups, towels, and pugua.

■ Monitor your symptoms. If you were exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19, follow recommendations for precautions at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/if-you-were-exposed.html.

■ If you are at high risk of getting very sick, talk with a healthcare provider about additional prevention actions.

■ People considered high risk (e.g., history of diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, or cancer, or over the age of 65), immunocompromised persons, or unvaccinated individuals are at risk of serious illness from COVID-19. Unvaccinated individuals spread the virus at a higher rate than vaccinated individuals, thereby increasing the spread and risk of serious illness toward other unvaccinated individuals.

The CHCC continues to encourage the community to get vaccinated if they have not done so, or get their updated booster shot if they are eligible to help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, or death. **(PR)**



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS
Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 117 D 03, containing an area of approximately 4,892 square meters, situated in Puerto Rico, Saipan. A map showing the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.
 - ii. The prospective lessee is Coldwell Energy 1 LLC. The list of officers for Coldwell Energy 1 LLC is David Hood, as Manager.
 - iii. The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by the officer and director of Coldwell Energy 1 LLC, mainly David Hood.
 - iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of a business warehouse and storage facility.
- The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years.
- The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.
- v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the PM Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp
 - vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Puerto Rico, Saipan.
 - vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before October 3, 2022, at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota, or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TĀNU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Publiku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Publiku mannānā'i huyong nutisia guini put i intensiōn-ñiha para u ma'atila metton na tanu' publiku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariānas. Maseha hāyi na pattidā intrisao gi halum hinirāt pupbluku siña muna hālum upiñon, infotmasion, pat testimoniun kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu' pupbluku. Komu mapribeni mās mo'na ginin i Lain Publiku 15-2, i tinattiyi pettanesi na infotmasion manisisita para u mapupblika.

- i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbluku madiskribi komu Lot 117 D 03 ni kunsissisti kāsī 4,892 square meters, ni gaigi gi hālum Puerto Rico, iya Saipan. I māpa ni ina'a'annuk i lugāt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Publiku yan gi website i www.dpl.gov.mp para inspeksion.
 - ii. I prospective lessee i Coldwell Energy 1 LLC. I listan nu ufisiāt siha para i Coldwell Energy 1 LLC sa si David Hood, komu i Manager.
 - iii. I maproponi na atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL siha yan ginen manegosiu ni ufisiāt yan direktot nu Coldwell Energy 1 LLC, mayotmenti as David Hood.
 - iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugāt put atyu ha' na rason nu i pine'lun fektus/matiriāt bisnis yan fasilidāt pine'lu.
- I tema nu i maproponi na kontrātan atkilon sa' bentsingku (25) āñus na tiempo.
- I maproponi na atkilon gi kada' sākkan gi durāntin teman kontrātan i atkilon mapega gi put sientus i bālin "appraised fair market" i propiedāt yan i aplikāo na put sientus nu i "Business Gross Receipts" gi halum i regulasion DPL.
- v. I kopian nu i maproponi na kuntrātan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Publiku, ni gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iya Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet (1st) na bibiendan i PM Building, giya Tinian. I kopia debi lokku' na u managuaha online gi www.dpl.gov.mp
 - vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Publiku tāya marisibi ni hāfa na tinahguin inofresi siha ni para u ma'atila i suhetu na tanu' pupbluku gi Puerto Rico, giya Saipan.
 - vii. I Sekretariun Dipattamentun Tanu' Publiku debi na u aksepta tinigi' upiñon, infotmasion, testimoniun kinontra pat tinahguin prinoponi siha ginin i manintrisāo na pattidā siha gi pat āntis di Oktubri 3, 2022, gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Publiku siha ni gaigi giya Sa'ipan, Luta pat Tinian.

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP REEL POMMWOL ATKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap e attotoowow arongorong reel igha re mǎngemǎng rebwe atkilaay akkáaw faluweer toulap llól Seipél, Commonwealth Téel Falúw kka Eféng llól Marianas. Schóó kka re mwuschel isisiilong kkapas, data, views, ngáre angingi reel pommwol atkiloónol faluweer toulap. Eyoor sǎngi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritiv ebwe akkatéewow.

- i. Ppwmwol atkiloónol faluweer toulap e bwááló bwe Lot 117 D 03, e lo bwe 4,892 reel square meters, iye e lo Puerto Rico, Seipél. E bwááló wóól móopa falúw yeel me eyoor me Bwulasiyol Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóól website me www.dpl.gov.mp ngáre u mwuschel amwuri.
 - ii. Ppwmwol schóól atkiloón nge Coldwell Energy 1 LLC. List-al officers ngáli Coldwell Energy 1 LLC nge David Hood, bwe Manager.
 - iii. Ppwmwol atkiloón nge e angúingú fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e abwungubwung sǎngi officer me director-il Coldwell Energy 1 LLC, spesiatmente David Hood.
 - iv. Schóól atkiloón ebwe yááyá falúw ngáli mwóghutughutúl "business warehouse" me "storage facility".
- Ppwmwol abwungubwung atkiloón nge ruweigh me limoow ráágh.
- Ppwmwol atkiloónol ghal ráágh nge e lo reel "percentage of the appraised fair market value" reel falúw fengál me "applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts" llól mwóghutughutúl DPL.
- v. Pappidil ppwmwol abwungubwungú atkiloón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh mereel Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél, 1st floor me De'Ana Commercial Building, Apilómwol Songsong, Luta; ngáre 1st floor reel PM Building, Tchiliyól. Ewal yoar pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp
 - vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh ppwmw iye e siiwel falúw reel atkiloónol falúw llól Puerto Rico, Seipél.
 - vii. Sekkretóriyol Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap emmwelil bweibwogh ischil mǎngemǎng, views, angingi ngáre ppwmw iye e siiwel sǎngi schóó kka re mwuschel wóól ngáre mmwalil Ottuubre 3, 2022, me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap ikka e lo wóól Seipél, Luta ngáre Tchiliyól.



LEIGH GASES

EDUCATION SUMMIT

Educators and board members from the Public School System, Northern Marianas College, and Northern Marianas Technical Institute, led by Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada, NMTech CEO Jodina Attao, and Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, are joined by members of Legislature and other delegates in the first State of Education Address last Thursday at the Royal Taga Ballroom in the Saipan World Resort.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.comMark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Iran must heed the demands for reforms

For all the legitimate concerns about privacy loss, the spread of misinformation and the like, one thing mass global access to the internet has done is made it ever harder for oppressive regimes to keep things under wraps.

Whereas once the Iranian government could have strived to keep images of widespread popular protests out of view and carry on as usual, nowadays even trying to block internet access hasn't stopped the whole world from watching everyday Iranians from young to old, Sunni and Shiite, Kurds and Persians, take to the streets in anger. Every American who purports to revere freedom should cheer them on.

The spark was the shocking death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who perished in murky circumstances last week at the hands of the fearsome morality police—who enforce the regime's strict codes of oppression masquerading as a concern for decency. Even Amini's surviving family remains unsure of what she is accused of doing and how she met her end, beyond the fact that she fell into a coma after sustaining injuries consistent with a beating.

The killing has fired up pent-up outrage, over the brutal religious code enforcers and economic stagnation and the continuously warped priorities of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Ebrahim Raisi. Since taking office just over a year ago, Raisi remains focused on maintaining a traditional vision of social mores even as the public now demands a different type of leadership, one centered around creating opportunities and letting Iranians make more decisions for themselves, whether that's a simple choice not to wear a headscarf or a greater say in political self-determination.

We know that the Iranians' version of freedom won't look exactly like ours, and that's fine. We must buck up the people opting to take their destiny in their own hands and toss off the yoke of an anachronistic theocracy. We must also keep making it clear to Iran's leadership that in the modern world, an isolated regime with an increasingly restive population will survive by instituting major reforms, or not at all.

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Young voters are the superheroes of democracy

The 2022 midterms are less than two months away and democracy itself is on the line. It may be our last chance to save democracy from the rise of right-wing authoritarianism.

Winning means doing everything possible to keep far-right populists from reaching the House, Senate and governors' mansions, and electing secretaries of state and attorneys general throughout the country who are committed to democracy. It also requires that Democratic candidates listen to the demands of young voters and inspire greater numbers to vote than ever before.

For the past two election cycles, young voters have been the superheroes of our democracy. In 2018, they turned out in record numbers to take back Congress from Trumpism. In 2020, in the midst of a global pandemic and widespread economic uncertainty, half of all young people aged 18 to 29 voted, an increase of 11% from 2016. Young voters saved the country from a second Trump term, and then helped put two Democrats from Georgia into the U.S. Senate.

But we did not stop there: Young people worked incessantly to protect democracy. Through efforts like the Alliance for Youth Action's "Democracy Done Right" campaign, youth organizers have passed voting rights legislation and expanded youth voting options throughout the country. During the 2018 midterms, for example, Engage Miami fought for and won early voting sites at Miami college campuses, while both New Era Colorado and Washington Bus secured ballot drop-off boxes on campuses across their respective states. When MOVE Texas expanded polling locations on Texas college campuses, there was a dramatic increase in student voter turnout. And in 2021, Forward Montana Foundation won a lawsuit to overturn a bill restricting access to the ballot for voters who turn 18 the month before Election Day.

Much of this work was undone by radical GOP lawmakers at the state level, however. And Democrats in Congress failed to pass national voting rights protections, in part by wasting too much time negotiating with the very people who want to suppress our votes.

Yet young voters keep showing up, despite our demands and concerns often being the first on the chopping block. Over the last two years, the voices of Gen Z and millennial voters have

By DAKOTA HALL
Progressive Perspectives

Dakota Hall is the executive director of Alliance for Youth Action, a national network of local organizations that works with young people to engage in our democracy as voters, organizers, and leaders. This column was produced by Progressive Perspectives, which is run by The Progressive magazine and distributed by Tribune News Service.



made their voices heard at the White House and in Congress. But while President Joe Biden campaigned on canceling a portion of student debt, he dragged his feet until this summer to make it a reality. It took continuous pressure from youth organizers, many of them in the Alliance for Youth Action Network, to force the Biden administration to act.

Let's be clear: \$10,000 is not enough to address the racial wealth gap exacerbated by the student debt crisis. We are celebrating this initial win, but we want candidates who are committed to doing more. The measure of success should not be "did we do something?" but "did we fix the problem?"

In a recent poll conducted by the Alliance for Youth Action, in collaboration with Civiqs, 88% of young Democratic voters in battleground states said they plan to vote in November. But polls don't vote; people do. And the Democratic Party has some work to do. In our poll, young Democratic and Independent voters voiced deep dissatisfaction with both Biden and Congress.

Our poll makes clear that actual turnout will depend not on party affiliation but on the moral clarity and bold, unapologetic stances that candidates bring to critical priorities such as democracy reform and voting rights, abortion rights and student debt.

Young people are constantly told that if we just turn out to vote, it will change the country. And since 2018, we have done just that. Yet during that time, we have seen relatively little progress on the issues most important to us. You need us—the country needs us—to vote in November. In turn, we expect to see tangible action and commitments from the candidates who want our votes.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Puerto Rico and the US territories: The need to resolve their constitutional and political issues

By JOSE DELA CRUZ
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Last of a two-part series

Congress' treatment of the territories over the past 125 years has mostly been uneven, disparate and, many times, unfair (if not condescending) to the people residing in the territories. For example, Congress enacted federal legislation in the '60s making the federal judges in Puerto Rico Article III judges with lifetime tenure. But the federal judges in Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands—for several decades now—remain Article I territorial judges, with a limited term of only 10 years. Another example of the disparate treatment of the territories' and Commonwealth's is the applicability of the Supplemental Security Income program to the Northern Mariana Islands, but not to the other territories. Indeed, a native of Puerto Rico who was receiving SSI financial assistance while living in Illinois became ineligible for the program when he moved back to Puerto Rico. Is this fair? Of course not.

So even Puerto Rico with over three million people, many times, has found itself on the short end of the congressional stick. For example, in 1950, Congress passed federal legislation that asked the people of Puerto Rico to decide whether it agrees with Congress' proposal for the people of Puerto Rico to draft and adopt their own local constitution. Amidst much fanfare and hoopla back then, the people of Puerto Rico agreed with the proposal of Congress, based on their understanding that, by adopting their own constitution, they would be establishing a new political relationship with the United States, i.e., Puerto Rico would become a "commonwealth" of the United States, and the people of Puerto Rico would have autonomy over all commonwealth matters, just like the way each state controls its internal affairs.

Unfortunately, this belief—that the people of Puerto Rico would have autonomy over their internal affairs—was dashed by several Supreme Court cases that were rendered just within the past several years. For example, Congress enacted federal legislation a few years ago that established a "Financial Oversight and Management Board" to oversee and manage the financial affairs of the bankrupt government of Puerto Rico. Most unusually, Congress gave this federally established oversight board the power and authority to supersede the power and authority of the duly-elected governor and legislature of Puerto Rico, with respect to Puerto Rico's finances and debt obligations. Puerto Rico was then (and apparently still is) in bankruptcy to the tune of \$70 billion originally.

The federal legislation came up for review before the Supreme Court on the issue of whether the members of the financial oversight and management board were subject to confirmation by the U.S. Senate on the assertion that they are "federal officers" since they were appointed by the U.S. President (See *Financial Oversight and Management Board v. Aurelius Investment LLC*, Case No. 18-1334, decided June 1, 2020). The Supreme Court ruled that, although the financial oversight board members were appointed by the President, they are "not federal officers" and, therefore, are not subject to Senate confirmation.

The court decided that, although appointed by the President, the board members rather are "officers of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico" and do not require U.S. Senate confirmation because of the "primarily local duties of the board." This is so, notwithstanding the fact that the federal legislation that enacted the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Authority ("PROMESA") also gave the PROMESA board powers that infringe on and supersede the power and authority of the duly-elected executive and legislative officials of Puerto Rico.

The Supreme Court decision, with respect to the PROMESA board members, shows that, although Puerto Rico was given authority in 1950 under U.S. Public Law 600 to govern itself internally, Congress could still, at any time, step in, intrude or even take over the internal and local affairs of Puerto Rico. The Supreme Court ruling shows that the Territorial Clause is "still alive and well" in Puerto Rico, notwithstanding the fact that 72 years ago, Congress had enacted Public Law 600 so that Puerto Rico could adopt its own constitution and assume full authority in governing itself internally. In establishing the PROMESA board as "a commonwealth entity" but with powers that supersede the powers of the elected officials of Puerto Rico, Congress has, in effect, reneged on its 1950 commitment under Public Law 600 to give the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico full autonomy over all commonwealth matters, including its finances and debt obligations.

Still another recent Supreme Court case—*Commonwealth of Puerto Rico v. Sanchez-Valle*—decided that, unlike the 50 states, Puerto Rico is not a "sovereign" entity and as such, under the Double Jeopardy Clause of the U.S. Constitution, Puerto Rico cannot prosecute a person under Puerto Rico law, for the same offense that the person has already been prosecuted by the federal government under federal law. The court ruled that Puerto Rico derives its local authority to prosecute through the same source as the federal government—i.e., U.S. national sovereignty.

■ ■ ■

So where do things stand today with respect to the U.S. ter-

ritories and the people who live there, in view of Congress' continuing plenary powers over the territories? It appears, based on the recent Supreme Court rulings, that the status quo still stand as it did when the Insular Cases were first decided in 1901. In other words, Congress still has "veto powers" over all territorial government affairs, pursuant to the Territorial Clause. The local autonomy of the territories including Puerto Rico, if there is any, takes a back seat to the Territorial Clause of the U.S. Constitution. This constitutional provision is the federal government's "trump card" (no pun intended) over the territories. When events in the territory go awry, as it sometimes happens, Congress can step in and take control of things.

But aside from the foregoing issues involving Puerto Rico and the other U.S. territories, the truly fundamental problem affecting the people of the territories relates to their inability, as U.S. citizens, to fully participate in the political affairs of their mother country—the United States. Praised as "the first democracy" when it was established in 1789, the United States ironically still has four million U.S. citizens in the territories and commonwealths who are not allowed to vote for the U.S. President. Also, because the territories and commonwealths are not states, their citizens are not constitutionally represented in the U.S. Congress with their own elected representatives, at least in the House of Representatives.

Most unfortunately, the U.S. Supreme Court, to this day, is still reluctant to set aside its racist 1901 ruling in the Insular cases, which decided that the territories are "not a part of the United States" until such time as the Congress declares that a territory is "destined for statehood." Only then would the U.S. Constitution apply to that territory and become an "incorporated territory" of the United States. Only then would it be considered "a part of the United States."

Ultimately, most of the fundamental problems that the territories and their citizens have with their mother country stem from the outdated and archaic nature of the Territorial Clause that effectively says that Congress has "plenary powers" over the territories. In order to rectify and correct the constitutional problems confronting the territories, the U.S. Constitution must be amended so that, among other things, all U.S. citizens in the territories could vote for their President and be given full-fledged representation in Congress.

It is time for the U.S. Constitution to apply to all the territories, not just the 50 states. After all, the U.S. territories are not part of a foreign country. Neither should they be treated as a piece of real property that could be disposed of by the U.S. Congress.

Jose Dela Cruz is a former chief justice of the NMI Supreme Court.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Yes, the governor doesn't care about veterans

Mr. Iakopo is correct. The governor doesn't care about veterans. Well, let me correct that: The governor cares a lot about getting his picture in the local media standing alongside veterans, Veterans Affairs, and military officials and paying lip service to veterans but that's about as far as his concern, compassion, and follow-through goes.

Let me tell you my experiences. I'm retired from the military and am a fully-disabled veteran with multiple service-related disabilities and other health challenges. CNMI veteran outreach and care is a sad, cruel joke, especially when it comes to the Commonwealth's responsibility to ensure that veterans receive the benefits, especially health care and mental health support, that

the federal government is supposed to deliver and often doesn't (through no failure of the local U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs staff who try their best to help those who have served).

I haven't received any CNMI stimulus payments (which would help as I live on my fixed military/VA retirement-disability pension) despite submitting all the correct forms and documentation (100% disabled veteran's pensions are not taxable yet the governor has done nothing to inform his own people at the CNMI Department of Finance of our legal non-tax status). I was also repeatedly denied, along with hundreds of other Saipan residents, the CUC subsidy payments too as my apartment building (following local building codes) has electric service submeters and I pay utilities to the property manager as part of my rent.

So, I repeatedly called the Governor's Office. Half of the time no one answers the phone. The times that the call goes to voice mail, no one returns the call. When I did leave a message or finally talked with someone, I made it clear as to my resident, service, military retiree and disability status. They either hung up on me as soon as they heard my last name or never called me back after saying they would. Nice way to treat a resident and a disabled veteran...






Then there is the issue of military medical evacuation of Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios at the governor's request. At the same time as the lieutenant governor's medical issues, I was dealing with

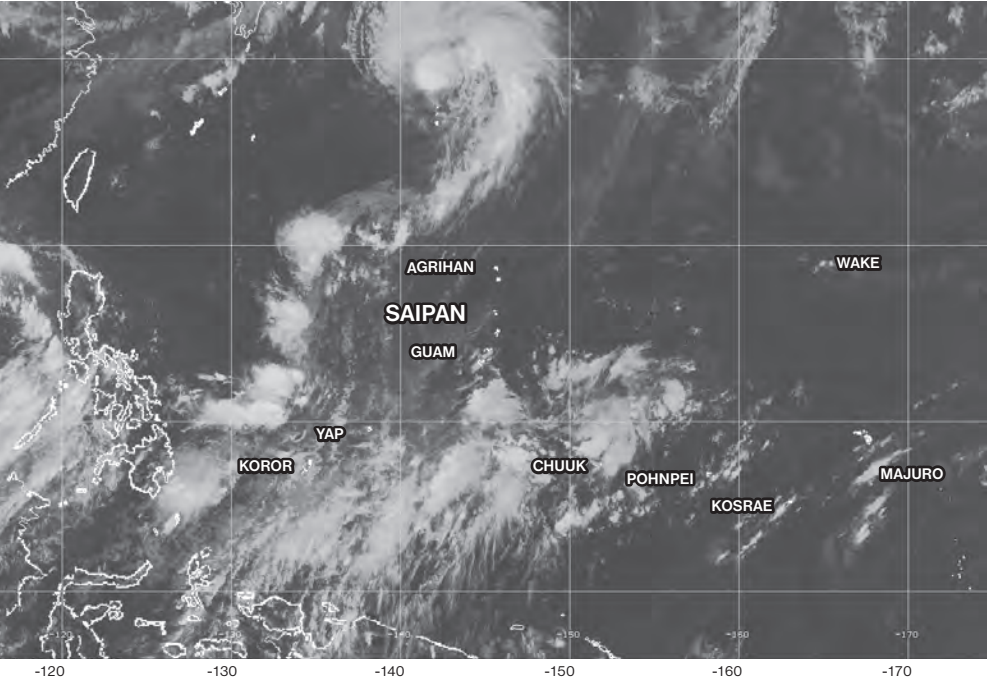
long COVID-19 and multiple heart attacks. The VA in Hawaii forgot about me for over six weeks (they called and apologized and finally sent me to Guam where I underwent tests and an invasive cardiac procedure). Meanwhile the lieutenant governor, who never served in the U.S. military, is airlifted to Hawaii by the U.S. Air Force at the cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars (maybe as part of a deal with the lieutenant governor?) I, along with all other military retirees, have the privilege of being allowed transportation on any U.S. military aircraft if there is a seat available. I know from talking with other vets at the VA offices and Troop Store that there were other CNMI military retirees who were seriously ill at the same time who could have made use of the transport to Hawaii for military/VA medical care had they been alerted to the medevac flight. I called the Governor's Office to raise this issue. They hung up on me repeatedly and the person I finally talked with never had anyone return my call.

That's exactly how much the current governor cares about CNMI veterans. I ask that you please remember my story and the stories of Mr. Iakopo and other local veterans when voting in November.

Mark Farmer, USCG ret.
Garapan, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		A 30 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy		A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny	
88°	79°	87°	79°	87°	77°	88°	77°	85°	80°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:53 AM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Doppler radar shows scattered showers across Guam and Rota waters with additional showers to the east of the Marianas. Seas remain in the 4 to 5 foot range with a primary northeast swell and a secondary west swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 75°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	89° / 76°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:08 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:08 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:07 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:06 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:05 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:52 AM	7:49 PM	-
Thursday	8:47 AM	8:32 PM	-
Friday	9:46 AM	9:20 PM	-
Saturday	10:47 AM	10:14 PM	-
Sunday	11:51 AM	11:13 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Cloudy	63° / 57°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	88° / 59°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°	
London	Partly Cloudy	60° / 48°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	92° / 68°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°	
Melbourne	Light Rain	59° / 49°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	84° / 81°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	72° / 53°	
Osaka	Cloudy	80° / 68°	
Paris	Showers	59° / 47°	
Busan	Cloudy	78° / 66°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	76° / 64°	
Salem	Sunny	77° / 53°	
San Francisco	Cloudy	68° / 57°	
Seoul	Cloudy	80° / 59°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	79° / 67°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	72° / 50°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:59 AM	Low Tide	0.31	
9:04 AM	High Tide	1.90	
3:11 PM	Low Tide	0.67	
8:52 PM	High Tide	1.91	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6	UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily	PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam
SAIPAN-NARITA				NARITA-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:00AM	9:30AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00 AM+1	2, 4, 7
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	4
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3, 4, 7	7C3406	8:50AM	2:50PM	3, 7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
				TW307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
				TW307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:00PM	6:35PM	3, 7	BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7	7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T*Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)	7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.		10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)	4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.		9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.		2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	
SAIPAN TO GUAM			GUAM TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.		12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.		6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

Fed officials call for more rate hikes to fight inflation

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve will have to keep boosting its benchmark interest rate to a point that raises unemployment and gets inflation down from unusually high levels, two officials said in separate remarks Monday.

Susan Collins, the new president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, endorsed Fed projections released last week that signaled its benchmark interest rate would rise to 4.6% by next year, up sharply from about 3.1% now.

Getting inflation down will “require slower employment growth and a somewhat higher unemployment rate,” Collins said in a speech to the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce.

Later Monday, Cleveland Fed President Loretta Mester said the Fed’s short-term rate would have to stay higher for longer than previously expected, regardless of the uncertainties surrounding the economy, such as Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and ongoing supply chain difficulties.

“When there’s a lot of uncertainty, it can be better for policymakers to actually act

more aggressively, because aggressive action and preemptive action can prevent the worst-case outcomes from happening,” she said.

Mester also said she expects higher interest rates will raise unemployment, but disagreed with a forecast by Bank of America that the unemployment rate would rise to 5.5%.

“I do expect the unemployment rate to rise, but not to that extent,” she said.

The comments from both officials added to an ongoing debate about how badly the Federal Reserve’s rate hikes—the fastest in more than 40 years—will hurt the economy. By lifting its benchmark rate, the Fed is pushing up the cost of a wide range of consumer and business loans, including for mortgages, auto loans, and credit cards.

Collins said that, while worries are rising about a recession, “the goal of a more modest slowdown, while challenging, is achievable.”

Also Monday, stocks fell for the fifth straight day and longer-term interest rates rose amid growing fears of a global recession. The yield on the



In this Feb. 5, 2018, file photo, the seal of the Board of Governors of the United States Federal Reserve System is displayed in the ground at the Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building in Washington.

10-year Treasury, which influences mortgage rates, jumped to 3.89% from 3.69%.

Fed officials hope their rate hikes will achieve a “soft landing” by slowing consumer and business spending enough to bring down inflation but not so

much as to cause a recession.

Yet many economists are increasingly skeptical that such an outcome is likely. The Fed has lifted its key rate to a range of 3% to 3.25%, the highest in 14 years, even as the U.S. economy has already slowed. That could

cause a recession in the U.S. next year, economists fear.

In a question-and-answer session after her speech, Collins also said that inflation, which reached 9.1% in June from a year earlier and has since fallen to 8.3%, “perhaps

may have peaked.”

But Mester said she did not see any such signs.

“Before I conclude that inflation has even peaked, I am going to have to see several months of declines in the readings,” she said.

At a policy meeting last week, the Fed lifted its short-term rate by three-quarters of a point for the third straight time. Hikes typically are a more modest quarter-point. Fed Chair Jerome Powell, at a news conference after the meeting, said that “the chances of a soft landing are likely to diminish” as the Fed steadily raises borrowing costs.

“No one knows whether this process will lead to a recession or, if so, how significant that recession would be,” Powell said.

One challenge for the Fed is that last week it also released its quarterly economic and interest rate projections. They showed that Fed policymakers expect unemployment to reach 4.4% by the end of next year, up from 3.7% currently.

White House says new rule will show ‘true cost’ of plane tickets

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden announced a new initiative Monday that would eventually allow consumers to see a more complete price on airline tickets—including baggage and change fees—before they buy, as the White House continues to search for ways to lower costs for Americans amid persistently high inflation.

The White House says the proposed rule from the Transportation Department will prevent airlines from hiding the “true cost” of airline tickets, which would help consumers save money up front and encourage more competition among airlines to offer better fares. The requirement will apply not only to airlines directly but also to third-party search sites such as Kayak and Expedia.

“You should know the full cost of your ticket right when you’re comparison shopping,” Biden said Monday, citing fees charged by airlines to check luggage or to seat families together. The new rule, the president said, will help consumers “pick the ticket that actually is the best deal for you.”

Airlines made nearly \$5.3 billion in baggage fees and nearly \$700 million on can-

cellation and change fees last year, according to Transportation Department figures. Airlines charge a variety of other fees for extra legroom and other perks that are not tracked by the government.

A trade group for the largest U.S. airlines said carriers already disclose terms and the total cost of a ticket. “This includes transparency regarding taxes and government fees on airline tickets, which account for more than 20% of many domestic one-stop, roundtrip tickets,” said Katherine Estep, a spokeswoman for Airlines for America.

The proposed rule seeks to target a typical situation faced by consumers where a ticket price is listed on an airline or search website, but with information often listed elsewhere about any additional airline fees, such as for checking or carrying on a bag, getting a guaranteed seat next to your child or changing or canceling a flight—fees that vary widely by airline and could quickly tack on up to hundreds of dollars more to a price of a ticket after the initial purchase. Under the proposal, that information would be made available upfront when the quoted airfare is first displayed.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

UK: TikTok may face big fine over children’s data protection

LONDON (AP)—TikTok could face a 27 million-pound (\$29 million) fine in the U.K. over a possible breach of U.K. data protection law by failing to protect children’s privacy when they are using the video-sharing platform. The U.K. Information Commissioner’s Office said Monday that it has issued the social media company a legal document that precedes a potential fine. It said TikTok may have processed the data of children under 13 without appropriate parental consent, and processed “special category data” without legal grounds to do so. The commissioner said “special category data” included ethnic and racial origin, political opinions, religious beliefs and sexual orientation.

France forecasts weak growth next year amid energy crisis

PARIS (AP)—France forecasts growth to slow down substantially next year in the EU’s second-biggest economy, amid fears of a recession in neighboring Germany as the economic situation in Europe is slammed by the impact of Russia’s war in Ukraine. France’s budget, presented Monday in a

Cabinet meeting, is based on an predicted growth of 1% next year—down from an estimated 2.7% this year. As the country faces soaring energy and food prices, Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said inflation in France is expected to reach 6% in the coming months and 4% later next year. Also on Monday, the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said it anticipates almost flat growth next year in the 19-nation euro zone largely due to a recession in Germany, where the gross domestic product is expected to contract by 0.7%.

Canada won’t require masks on planes, drops vaccine mandate

TORONTO (AP)—The Canadian government announced Monday it will no longer require people to wear masks on planes to guard against COVID-19. Transport Canada said the existing rules for masks will come off Oct. 1. “We are able to do this because tens of millions of Canadians rolled up their sleeves and got vaccinated,” Transport Minister Omar Alghabra said. Health Minister Jean-Yves Duclos said the negative attitudes of some passengers have made it hard for airlines and crews to enforce

the mask mandate in recent months, and cited that as a factor in the decision. Government officials also confirmed Canada is dropping the vaccine requirement for people entering the country at the end of the month. The Associated Press reported last week that was likely.

Lights out, ovens off: Europe preps for winter energy crisis

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—As Europe heads into winter in the throes of an energy crisis, offices are getting chillier. Statues and historic buildings are going dark. Bakers who can’t afford to heat their ovens are talking about giving up, while fruit and vegetable growers face letting greenhouses stand idle. In poorer eastern Europe, people are stocking up on firewood, while in wealthier Germany, the wait for an energy-saving heat pump can take half a year. And businesses don’t know how much more they can cut back. “We can’t turn off the lights and make our guests sit in the dark,” said Richard Kovacs, business development manager for Hungarian burger chain Zing Burger. The restaurants already run the grills no more than necessary and use motion detectors to turn off lights in storage, with some stores facing a 750% in-

crease in electricity bills since the beginning of the year.

Bank of England fails to reassure markets after pound plunge

LONDON (AP)—The Bank of England sought to reassure financial markets after the British pound touched an all-time low against the U.S. dollar Monday, but its entreaty fell flat for investors concerned about a sweeping package of tax cuts that further jolted a faltering economy that the government’s plan was meant to prop up. The central bank said it was “closely monitoring” the markets and would not hesitate to boost interest rates to curb inflation. Its statement came after the pound plunged as low as \$1.0373, the lowest since the decimalization of the currency in 1971, on concerns that tax cuts announced Friday by Treasury chief Kwasi Kwarteng would swell government debt and fuel further inflation as the United Kingdom teeters toward recession. The bank, which raised rates Thursday, said it would fully assess the government’s tax and spending commitments before it meets next in November and “will not hesitate to change interest rates by as much as needed to return inflation to the 2% target sustainably in the medium term.”

Nation

Hurricane Ian nears Cuba on path to strike Florida as Cat 4

HAVANA (AP)—Hurricane Ian was growing stronger as it barreled toward Cuba on a track to hit Florida's west coast as a major hurricane as early as Wednesday.

Ian was forecast to hit the western tip of Cuba as a major hurricane and then become an even stronger Category 4 with top winds of 140 mph (225 km/h) over warm Gulf of Mexico waters before striking Florida.

As of Monday, Tampa and St. Petersburg appeared to be the among the most likely targets for their first direct hit by a major hurricane since 1921.

"Please treat this storm seriously. It's the real deal. This is not a drill," Hillsborough County Emergency Management Director Timothy Dudley said at a news conference on storm preparations in Tampa.

Authorities in Cuba were evacuating 50,000 people in Pinar del Rio province, sent in medical and emergency personnel, and took steps to protect food and other crops in warehouses, according to state media.

"Cuba is expecting extreme hurricane-force winds, also life-threatening storm surge and heavy rainfall," U.S. National Hurricane Center senior specialist Daniel Brown told



The Associated Press.

The hurricane center predicted areas of Cuba's western coast could see as much as 14 feet (4.3 meters) of storm surge Monday night or early Tuesday.

In Havana, fishermen were taking their boats out of the water along the famous Malecon, the seaside boardwalk, and city workers were unclogging storm drains ahead of the expected rain.

Havana resident Adyz Lad-

ron, 35, said the potential for rising water from the storm worries him.

"I am very scared because my house gets completely flooded, with water up to here," he said, pointing to his chest.

In Havana's El Fanguito, a poor neighborhood near the Almendares River, residents were packing up what they could to leave their homes, many of which show damage from pre-

vious storms.

"I hope we escape this one because it would be the end of us. We already have so little," health worker Abel Rodrigues, 54, said.

On Monday night, Ian was moving northwest at 13 mph (20 km/h), about 105 miles (169 kilometers) southeast of the western tip of Cuba, with top sustained winds increasing to 105 mph (169 km/h).

The center of the hurricane passed to the west of the Cayman Islands, but no major damage was reported there

Waves kick up under a dark sky along the shore of Batabano, Cuba, Monday, Sept. 26, 2022. AP

Monday, and residents were going back into the streets as the winds died down.

"We seem to have dodged the bullet" Grand Cayman resident Gary Hollins said. "I am a happy camper."

Ian won't linger over Cuba but will slow down over the Gulf of Mexico, growing wider and stronger, "which will have the potential to produce significant wind and storm surge impacts along the west coast of Florida," the hurricane center said.

A surge of up to 10 feet (3 meters) of ocean water and 10 inches (25 centimeters) of rain was predicted across the Tampa Bay area, with as much as 15 inches (38 centimeters) inches in isolated areas. That's enough water to inundate coastal communities.

Bam! NASA spacecraft crashes into asteroid in defense test

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—A NASA spacecraft rammed an asteroid at blistering speed Monday in an unprecedented dress rehearsal for the day a killer rock menaces Earth.

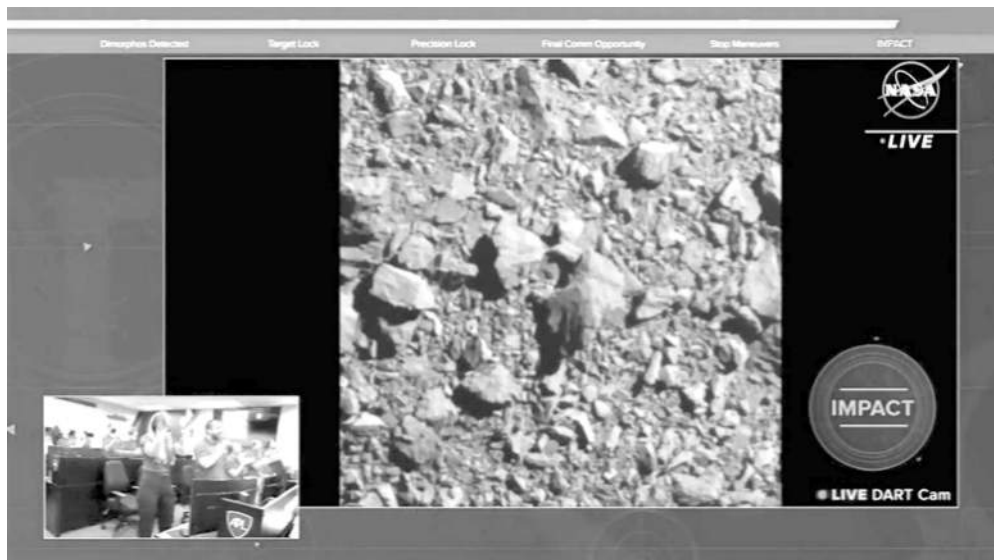
The galactic slam occurred at a harmless asteroid 7 million miles (11.3 million kilometers) away, with the spacecraft named Dart plowing into the space rock at 14,000 mph (22,500 kph). Scientists expected the impact to carve out a crater, hurl streams of rocks and dirt into space and, most importantly, alter the asteroid's orbit.

"We have impact!" Mission Control's Elena Adams announced, jumping up and down and thrusting her arms skyward.

Telescopes around the world and in space aimed at the same point in the sky to capture the spectacle. Though the impact was immediately obvious—Dart's radio signal abruptly ceased—it will take as long as a couple of months to determine how much the asteroid's path was changed.

The \$325 million mission was the first attempt to shift the position of an asteroid or any other natural object in space.

"As far as we can tell, our first planetary defense test was a success," Adams later told a news conference, the room filling with applause. "I think



ASI/NASA VIA AP

In this image made from a NASA livestream, the Double Asteroid Redirection Test spacecraft crashes into an asteroid on Monday, Sept. 26, 2022.

Earthlings should sleep better. Definitely, I will."

NASA Administrator Bill Nelson reminded people earlier in the day via Twitter that, "No, this is not a movie plot." He added in a prerecorded video: "We've all seen it on movies like 'Armageddon,' but the real-life stakes are high."

Monday's target: a 525-foot (160-meter) asteroid named Dimorphos. It's a moonlet of Didymos, Greek for twin, a fast-spinning asteroid five times bigger that flung off the material that formed the junior partner.

The pair have been orbiting the sun for eons without threatening Earth, making them ideal save-the-world test candidates.

Launched last November, the vending machine-size Dart—short for Double Asteroid Redirection Test—navigated to its target using new technology developed by Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory, the spacecraft builder and mission manager.

Dart's on-board camera, a key part of this smart navigation system, caught sight of Dimorphos barely an hour before

impact. "Woo hoo!" exclaimed Adams, a mission systems engineer at Johns Hopkins.

With an image beaming back to Earth every second, Adams and other ground controllers in Laurel, Maryland, watched with growing excitement as Dimorphos loomed larger and larger in the field of view alongside its bigger companion. Within minutes, Dimorphos was alone in the pictures; it looked like a giant gray lemon, but with boulders and rubble on the surface. The last image froze on the screen as the radio transmission ended.

ACROSS THE NATION

Harris focuses Asia trip on security, adds tour to Korea DMZ

TOKYO (AP)—In meeting after meeting with Asian leaders Tuesday, Vice President Kamala Harris emphasized the U.S. commitment to regional security, and the White House disclosed that she would visit the Demilitarized Zone between the Koreas. An official said Harris would tour the border area between South and North Korea on Thursday, at the end of her trip to Asia. The visit comes amid persistent concerns about North Korea's missile and nuclear programs. North Korea test-fired a short-range ballistic missile shortly before Harris left Washington, an apparent response to joint military exercises between the United States and South Korea that include the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan.

neck and arms. Investigators believe Graziano is with his daughter, Savannah Graziano, in a white 2017 Nissan Frontier with California plates. The pickup truck has distinctive stickers on the rear quarter panel that say "Pro-4X" and "animal." An Amber Alert was issued for the teen. Officers responded at around 7:30 a.m. to reports of gunfire, and found the victim with multiple gunshot wounds at a home in Fontana, police said in a statement. The woman was rushed to a hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

Patrol spots Chinese, Russian naval ships off Alaska island

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—A U.S. Coast Guard ship on routine patrol in the Bering Sea came across a guided missile cruiser from China, officials said Monday. But it turned out the cruiser wasn't alone as it sailed about 86 miles (138 kilometers) north of Alaska's Kiska Island, on Sept. 19. Two other Chinese naval ships and four Russian naval vessels, including a destroyer, were spotted in single formation, the patrol boat, known as a cutter called Kimball, discovered. The Honolulu-based Kimball, a 418-foot (127-meter) vessel, observed as the ships broke formation and dispersed. A C-130 Hercules provided air support for the Kimball from the Coast Guard station in Kodiak.

Shooting suspect believed to be on run with his daughter, 15

FONTANA, Calif. (AP)—A Southern California woman was shot to death Monday in a domestic violence incident and police believe the suspect is on the run with his 15-year-old daughter. "This was a domestic violence incident. The suspect, 45-year-old Anthony John Graziano, is considered armed and dangerous," the Fontana Police Department said in a statement. Photos released by the police showed Graziano has tattoos on his

Asia

Tense Japan holds funeral for assassinated ex-leader Abe



NICOLAS DATICHE/POOL PHOTO VIA AP

People leave flowers and pay their respects to former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe outside the Nippon Budokan in Tokyo Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2022, ahead of his state funeral later in the day.

TOKYO (AP)—A tense Japan prepared Tuesday for a rare and controversial state funeral for assassinated former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the longest-serving leader in his nation's modern history and one of the most divisive.

Tokyo was under maximum security, with angry protests opposing the funeral planned around the capital and nation. Hours before the ceremony began, dozens of people carrying bouquets of flowers queued at public flower-laying stands at nearby Kudanzaka park.

Thousands of uniformed police mobilized around the Budokan hall, where the funeral is being held, and at major train stations. Roads around the venue are closed

throughout the day, and coin lockers at main stations were sealed for security. World leaders, including U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, were in town for the funeral.

Opponents of the state-sponsored funeral, which has its roots in prewar imperial ceremonies, say taxpayers' money should be spent on more meaningful causes, such as addressing widening economic disparities caused by Abe's policies.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has been criticized for forcing through the costly event to honor his mentor, Abe, who was assassinated in July. There has also been a widening controversy about Abe's and the governing par-

ty's decades-long close ties with the ultra-conservative Unification Church, accused of raking in huge donations by brainwashing adherents. Abe's alleged assassin reportedly told police he killed the politician because of his links to the church; he said his mother ruined his life by giving away the family's money to the church.

Kishida says the longest-serving leader in Japan's modern political history deserves a state funeral. The government also maintains that the ceremony is not meant to force anyone to honor Abe. Most of the nation's 47 prefectural governments, however, plan to fly national flags at half-staff and observe a moment of silence.

Court won't let PH declare Communists as terrorists

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine court has dismissed a government petition to declare the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed guerrilla wing as a terrorist organization in a decision that officials vowed to appeal but was welcomed by activists who have long rejected the labeling of rebels as terrorists.

Manila regional trial court Judge Marlo Magdoza-Malagar's ruling, signed Wednesday, is a legal victory for activists and government critics and a setback for security officials, who have long accused left-wing organizations of covertly serving as legal fronts for the Maoist guerrillas.

The court asked the government to fight the communist insurgency, one of Asia's longest, with "respect for the

right to dissent, to due process and to the rule of law." It raised concerns over "red-tagging," or linking activists to insurgents, which it said was a "pernicious practice" that endangers government critics.

"While both rebellion and terrorism may involve the use of violence, the violence in rebellion is directed against government or any part thereof," the court said in the 135-page decision. "Rebels in a rebellion always target agents of the state such as the military or the police."

"Terrorism, on the other hand, is directed against the civilian population with the intent to cause the latter extraordinary and widespread fear and panic," the court said.

Renato Reyes of Bayan, an alliance of left-wing groups, said, "labeling revolutionaries

and those engaged in peace negotiations as 'terrorists' is wrong, counter-productive and undermines any possibility of a political settlement in the armed conflict."

Emmanuel Salamat, a retired marine general who heads a government task force helping oversee efforts to end the decades-long insurgency, told reporters that he was saddened by the court decision because the rebels have committed acts of terrorism, including killings, for many decades.

"This is like disregarding the sacrifices of our troops, the front-liners in the field, our heroes who gave up their lives," he said. He cited the United States and other countries which have listed the rebel New People's Army as a terrorist organization.

World

17 dead, 24 wounded in school shooting in Russia

MOSCOW (AP)—A gunman opened fire in a school in central Russia on Monday, killing 17 people and wounding 24 others before shooting himself dead, authorities said.

The shooting took place in School No. 88 in Izhevsk, a city 960 kilometers (600 miles) east of Moscow in the Udmurtia region.

Russia's Investigative Committee identified the gunman as 34-year-old Artyom Kazantsev, a graduate of the same school, and said he was wearing a black t-shirt bearing "Nazi symbols." No details about his motives have been released.

The government of Udmurtia said 17 people, includ-

ing 11 children, were killed in the shooting. According to Russia's Investigative Committee, 24 other people, including 22 children, were wounded in the attack.

The governor of Udmurtia, Alexander Brechalov, said the gunman, who he said was registered as a patient at a psychiatric facility, killed himself after the attack.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov described the shooting as "a terrorist act" and said Russian President Vladimir Putin has given all the necessary orders to the relevant authorities.

"President Putin deeply mourns deaths of people and children in the school,

where a terrorist act took place," Peskov told reporters Monday.

The school educates children between grades one and 11. It has been evacuated and the area around it has been cordoned off, the governor said.

Russia's National Guard said Kazantsev used two non-lethal handguns adapted to fire real bullets. The guns were not registered with the authorities.

A criminal probe into the incident has been launched on charges of multiple murder and illegal possession of firearms.

Izhevsk, a city of 640,000, is located west of the Ural mountains in central Russia.

WORLD BRIEFS

Canadian navy vessel headed to areas hit hardest by Fiona

TORONTO (AP)—Canada's defense minister said Monday that 100 soldiers have been deployed to each of three Atlantic provinces hit by former Hurricane Fiona and a navy vessel will visit the most devastated area of Newfoundland, where 76 homes were destroyed or structurally damaged. Defense Minister Anita Anand said the HMCS Margaret Brooke will conduct wellness checks at four hard-hit communities. She more troops are ready if called upon. After surging north from the Caribbean as a major hurricane, Fiona came ashore before dawn Saturday as a post-tropical cyclone, battering Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Quebec with hurricane-strength winds, rains and waves.

Russia gives citizenship to ex-NSA contractor Edward Snowden

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia on Monday granted citizenship to former American intelligence contractor Edward Snowden, who fled prosecution after he revealed highly classified U.S. surveillance programs to capture communications and data from around the world. A decree signed Monday by Russian President Vladimir Putin listed Snowden as one of 75 foreign citizens listed as being granted Russian citizenship. After fleeing the U.S. in 2013, Snowden was granted permanent Russian residency in 2020 and said at the time that he planned to apply for Russian citizenship without renouncing his U.S. citizenship. Ties between Washington and Moscow are already at their lowest point in decades following Putin's decision to launch what the Kremlin has dubbed a "special military operation" in Ukraine.

First female premier poised to take helm of Italy government

ROME (AP)—A party with neo-fascist roots won the most votes in Italy's national election, setting the stage Monday for talks to form the country's first far right-led government since World War II, with Giorgia

Meloni at the helm as Italy's first female premier. Italy's lurch to the far right immediately shifted Europe's geopolitics, placing Meloni's euroskeptic Brothers of Italy in a position to lead a founding member of the European Union and its third-largest economy. Italy's left warned of "dark days" ahead and vowed to keep Italy in the heart of Europe. Right-wing leaders across Europe immediately hailed 45-year-old Meloni's victory as sending a historic, nationalist message to Brussels. It followed a right-wing victory in Sweden and recent gains by the far-right in France and Spain.

Russian military recruiter shot amid fear of Ukraine call-up

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—A young man shot a Russian military officer at close range at an enlistment office Monday, an unusually bold attack reflecting resistance to Russian President Vladimir Putin's efforts to mobilize hundreds of thousands of more men to wage war on Ukraine. The shooting comes after scattered arson attacks on enlistment offices and protests in Russian cities against the military call-up that have resulted in at least 2,000 arrests. Russia is seeking to bolster its military as its Ukraine offensive has bogged down. In the attack in the Siberian city of Ust-Ilimsk, 25-year-old resident Ruslan Zinin walked into the enlistment office saying "no one will go to fight" and "we will all go home now," according to local media.

Search continues for 2 inside massive Guatemala sinkhole

VILLA NUEVA, Guatemala (AP)—Search efforts continued Monday for a mother and daughter who disappeared when their vehicle was swallowed by a massive sinkhole in Guatemala. The girl's father was rescued Sunday from the hole in Villa Nueva, southwest of the capital, along with three other people. The sinkhole opened in the middle of the town's main thoroughfare. Copious amounts of rain dumped during the region's rainy season has led to landslides and collapsed roadways.

Good Housekeeping

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

As the old saying goes, what’s old is new again. This certainly applies to home decor and interior design. One moment a trend is hot, then goes out of style, only to return. Certain styles are also timeless. The expression “old-world charm” can be interpreted in different ways, but it typically signals a design that is classic and timeless. One way to create a look that is fresh and relevant is to modernize these elements. Here are some top tips.



DO’S

1. Do source locally. Local stores and boutiques are great for one-of-a-kind finds.
2. Do consider the works of artists and artisans. This is a wonderful way to incorporate craftsmanship and customization.
3. Do incorporate greenery, as it can help to create a feeling of coziness.
4. Do bring in texture and tactile elements such as thick rugs and fabrics for upholstery.
5. Do use a classic color palette to create a timeless look and feel.

DON’TS

1. Don’t ignore the timelessness of antiques, even if just a single heirloom piece.
2. Don’t use elements that are overly modern or trendy.
3. Don’t use colors that overly dark or warm. Creating a sense of contrast will help keep a space open and airy.
4. Don’t ignore architectural elements and details. Instead of painting or covering up original detail, refurbish, enhance and preserve.
5. Don’t overlook the power of mirrors to enhance and open various rooms and spaces.

MASTER MODERN OLD- WORLD CHARM WITH THESE TIPS



Life & Style

A doc from the Disney family takes aim at the Mouse House

NEW YORK (AP)—Abigail E. Disney has been critical of the company that bears her name before. But for the first time, Disney, the granddaughter of co-founder Roy O. Disney, has put her views into the medium the Mouse House was built on: a movie.

In the new documentary “The American Dream and Other Fairy Tales,” Disney argues that the Walt Disney Co. has lost its moral compass. As one of the company’s most prominent and outspoken critics—one who happens to be from within the Disney family—Disney lays out an unflattering portrait of the company, particularly in regard to pay inequity and the struggles of some theme park employees to sustain their families on minimum-wage salaries.

“They have gone the way of most every other company in this country. They started with a bigger idea of themselves than that,” Disney said in an interview. “The Walt Disney Co. was



This image released by Fork Films shows a scene from the documentary “The American Dream and Other Fairy Tales,” a film by Abigail Disney.

better. It was kinder, it was gentler. It was a human company.

“We have lost the plot,” said Disney.

“The American Dream,” which is playing in select theaters and debuts Friday on vid-

eo-on-demand, is directed by Disney, an activist and film producer, and the filmmaker Kathleen Hughes. It was made on the heels of a series of tweets from Disney in 2019 in which she slammed Bob Iger, then-Disney

chief executive, for compensation that in 2018 surpassed \$65 million. Disney’s siblings, Susan Disney Lord and Tim Disney, are also executive producers on the film, which was made without any interaction from

the company.

“No one’s reached out to me. I’m a little mystified by it, frankly,” said Disney. “I’m happy to talk if that’s what they want to do. I am rooting for them. I love this company. This is a love letter to the company. But when you really, really love something and see it going off the rails, you can’t be silent.”

The film follows four Disney-land custodians who on a salary of \$15 an hour struggle to make ends meet in the high-priced Anaheim, California, area. Growing pay gaps between executives and low-rung workers is an issue Disney knows goes far beyond the company her film concerns. At one point in the film, she describes her hope for change as “a little Disney.”

“I know that people think I’m just living out here in abstract land,” Disney said. “But the abstractions matter a lot, and the sensibilities must change.”

Wages for some Disney workers have been changing.

Unions representing 9,500 workers at Disneyland averted a strike by ratifying a contract that raised pay from \$15.45 an hour to \$18. A union representing hotel workers at an Anaheim hotel also recently reached agreement on \$23.50 an hour. (Anaheim’s living wage ordinance, which is \$23.50, was earlier ruled not to apply to Disneyland.)

In response to “The American Dream,” a Disney spokesperson replied with a statement.

“Our amazing cast members, storytellers, and employees are the heart and soul of Disney, and their wellbeing is our top priority. We work hard to ensure that our team is supported in ways that enable them to grow their careers, care for their families, and thrive at work—which is why so many people choose to spend their entire careers with us.”

The spokesperson also cited medical coverage, access to tuition-free higher education and subsidized child care as worker benefits. “We are committed to building on these impactful programs by identifying new ways to support our cast members and communities around the world,” said the spokesperson.

When Roy E. Disney, who founded the company with his brother, Walt, in 1923, stepped down from the board in 2003, the family ceased participating in running the company. Since Abigail Disney made her documentary, which first premiered in January at the Sundance Film Festival, Iger has been succeeded by Bob Chapek, who had previously run parks for the company. In that period, prices have risen sharply at the company’s theme parks—another point of contention for Disney.

Global Citizen Festival generates \$2.4 billion in pledges

NEW YORK (AP)—The 10th anniversary of the Global Citizen Festival, which included performances from Metallica, Mariah Carey and Usher, generated more than \$2.4 billion in commitments to fight extreme poverty and disease.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley and others addressed the crowds gathered in New York’s Central Park and Black Star Square in Accra, Ghana, for nine hours Saturday.

“Amidst all the doomsday messages we hear today, hope

lies in the fact that millions of citizens are rising up to take action, more than any other point in history,” Global Citizen CEO Hugh Evans said at the event. “Ending extreme poverty is not a partisan issue, and those most in need cannot be treated like political pawns. Our job is to not let our leaders forget that.”

What makes Global Citizen Festival different from other fundraisers is that tickets for the event are not for sale. To attend, supporters must volunteer time to take various actions – from signing petitions and calling or messaging

world leaders on social media to address certain issues – during a six-week campaign. This year’s campaign generated more than two million actions, more than doubling the previous record for the advocacy nonprofit.

International leaders announced new policies at the festival, influenced, in part, by Global Citizen supporters. French President Emmanuel Macron confirmed that he would reallocate 30% of his country’s Special Drawing Rights reserves with the International Monetary Fund to the world’s poorest countries, spe-

cifically in Africa, to help them fund projects battling extreme poverty and climate change. The governments of Ghana and South Africa announced the formation of the \$1 billion African Prosperity Fund, to finance infrastructure, technology and sustainability projects across the continent.

Rotary International President Jennifer Jones announced a \$150 million, three-year commitment to fight polio through the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, part of the service organization’s work against the disease since 1985.

“Quite honestly, until ev-

eryone is protected, no one is protected,” Jones told The Associated Press in an interview. “And we see now with the state of emergency being declared in New York and the case of vaccine-derived polio that has entered here, it’s close to home. I think it’s a little bit of an alarm bell to a lot of people who thought, ‘Well, this is something that’s gone. Why do we even need to immunize our children?’”

Jones said she wanted to announce Rotary International’s new commitment at Global Citizen Festival’s 10th anniversary because the organization made a similar announcement at the first festival.

Husband’s fantasies have opposite effect for wife

DEAR ABBY: I have been married 30 years. Our marriage has been a happy one. My husband supports me through everything. Our problems come up in the bedroom. A few years ago, he wanted to add “spice” to our relationship with a threesome. I agreed to try it if it would make him happy.

Now every time we make love he wants to talk about another man being in our bed. I have tried explaining that I do not enjoy this all the time. It has reached the point that I no longer get turned on. He can start out beautifully. I am turned on and we start. Then he wants me to talk to him about another man being there, and I shut down. When I try to explain it to him, he gets angry or frustrated.

How do I keep my marriage going without losing my husband to a younger woman, and add some spice to my marriage bed without talking about threesomes? I love him and I don’t want to lose a marriage we have fought to keep together through thick and thin. Please, help me keep my marriage together.

LOST AND FRUSTRATED

DEAR LOST AND FRUSTRATED: If ever I heard about a couple who need to talk to a licensed marriage and family therapist—as well as a sex therapist—it’s the two

of you. Sex is supposed to be enjoyable for both partners, not just one. Many straight men’s fantasies involve another woman in the marriage bed. That your husband cannot be aroused without having you talk about another man raises questions about the nature of his sexual fantasies that I cannot address.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband’s parents treat our two daughters very differently. My oldest is bright and talkative, and she’s treated with love and kindness from both of them. They bring her gifts for holidays and birthdays and make time to be with her. Our younger daughter has multiple disabilities. She is nonverbal and requires help in all areas. My in-laws act as if she doesn’t exist. They never interact with her and never buy her gifts.

They claim to be religious people, but I find their behavior toward our younger child to be completely devoid of love or kindness—the opposite of what their religion teaches. It’s distressing to my husband and me.

We have mentioned the inequality before, to no avail. In fact, they never even responded. What should we do? It’s tearing my heart apart to see my younger child treated this way by people who should love her unconditionally.

MOM OF TWO IN OHIO

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR MOM OF TWO: You do not have to sit by and helplessly tolerate your younger daughter being treated the way she has been. I agree that what your in-laws have been doing is cruel and hurtful. It’s appalling. So you and your husband should TELL them that if they want to continue seeing their grandchildren, they will show more consideration to the younger one, or else it won’t happen.

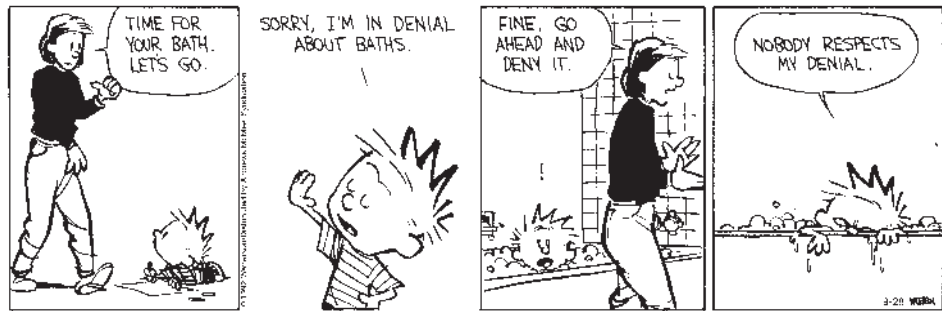
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Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



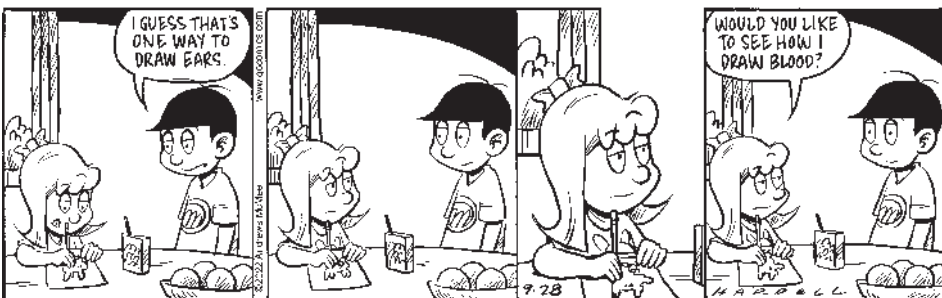
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 And others (Lat.)

5 USN bigwig

8 Many corp.

12 Tora —, Afghanistan

13 "Unstoppable" singer

14 Killer whale

15 Pants

17 Little dent

18 Seize greedily

19 School papers

21 Shoe width

22 Belgrade resident

23 Corn core

26 Calendar box

28 Ginger cookies

31 Crony, out West

33 Tavern

35 Unsigned (Abbr.)

36 Disney mermaid

DOWN

1 Recedes

2 Undecided

3 "Carmen" solo

4 Coffee bar offering

5 Worthless pile

6 Conk out

7 Clipper brush

8 Vaccine maker

9 Queensland's capital

10 Skin breakout

11 Droops

16 Sent a dupe to

20 "For — a jolly good ..."

23 Tax prep pro

24 Scull need

25 Brunch breads

27 Actor Brynner

29 "The Bells" author

30 NBC weekend show

32 Lowers

34 "I, Tonya" and "Gandhi," for example

37 Cover

39 Web addresses

42 Former quarterback Tim

44 Ulan —

45 Brew topper

46 Play opener

48 Do in

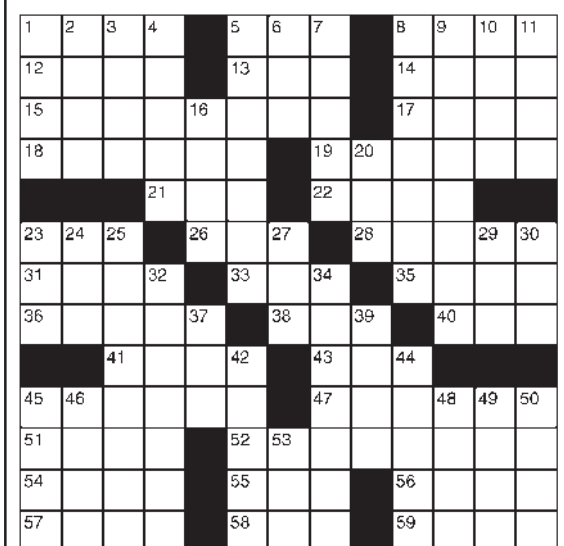
49 Self-referential

50 Org.

53 Numbered rd.

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-28



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hilary Duff, 35; Ranbir Kapoor, 40; Mira Sorvino, 55; Janeane Garofalo, 58.

Happy Birthday: Put emotional spending to rest this year, and focus on saving for something special. Rethink your life strategy and what's important to you, and you'll devise a plan that will encourage you to update your skills and learn something that makes you feel good about yourself and your future. Your progress depends on desire. Put your best foot forward. Your numbers are 5, 18, 24, 29, 33, 36, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look at the broader scope of a situation, and you'll gain perspective on what you can do to improve things. Rethink your connections and direction, and you'll discover who you can trust to help you get where you want to go. ☀☀☀

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Pay attention to partnerships. Don't neglect those who have an impact on your life and plans. Be accommodating and offer common sense solutions that will buy you time and encourage you to consider your words and actions. ☀☀☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Pull things together, do the work yourself and take the credit you deserve for your achievements. Get together with people who stimulate you mentally and encourage you to focus on self-improvement. Update your skills and qualifications. Circumvent misunderstandings and jealousy. ☀☀☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A pick-me-up will be illuminating. Book a spa day or plan to engage in something that brightens

your surroundings or makes your place comfortable. Strive for perfection and functionality, and you will reach your target. Romance is on the rise. ☀☀☀☀☀

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If you look for opportunities, you will find something that interests you. Get involved in a conversation that can offer insight into the pros and cons of something you want to pursue. Educate yourself and negotiate on your own behalf. ☀☀

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A unique relationship approach is favored. Your input will make a difference and change how someone feels about you. By taking control, you will win a seat at the table where you can voice your opinion. Stand up and be counted. ☀☀☀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Consider where you put your energy and the returns you get for your hard work, and you'll get a clear picture of the changes you can make to improve your life. Don't wait when action is the key to getting what you want. ☀☀☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let situations play out. It's best not to show your emotions or give anyone ammunition to disrupt your day or life. Listen carefully and gather information. You'll find clues that will help you outmaneuver anyone who gets in your way. ☀☀☀

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A last-minute change someone makes will give you a reason to take note and make compensations that better suit your needs and lifestyle. Don't believe everything you hear or trust someone who has a vested interest in something you have. ☀☀☀

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll get an inside view of something that will prompt you to shift how you do your job or the type of work you pursue. A change that entails a learning curve will be mentally, emotionally and financially advantageous. ☀☀☀☀

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Revisit how you feel about your relationships. Whether it's a family, work or romantic relationship, maintaining peace will be necessary if you want to avoid emotional instability. Pay attention to money matters and shared expenses. Avoid overindulgence. ☀☀

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A financial change is apparent. Do everything by the book, or you may end up owing money. Don't let an outsider represent you. Offer legitimacy and transparency to anyone who questions you. Your diligence will lead to personal gain. Romance is favored. ☀☀☀☀

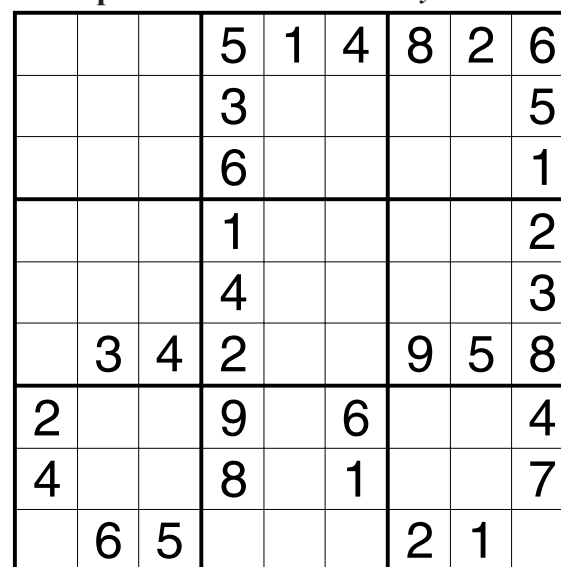
Birthday Baby: You are secretive, possessive and determined. You are precise and observant.

☀: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☀☀: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☀☀☀: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☀☀☀☀: Aim high; start new projects. ☀☀☀☀☀: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



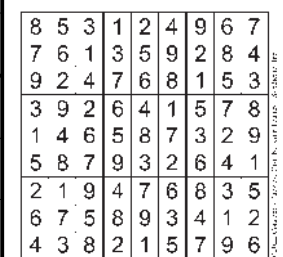
Difficulty Level ★★★

9/28

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday Answer



WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LAUGHING IS GOOD MEDICINE

Solution: 6 letters



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Amuse, Baby, Birthday, Bond, Brain, Breathe, Children, Connection, Emoji, Emotion, Energy, Entertain, Face, Feeling, Friends, Funny, Gasp, Grin, Hilarious, Interact, Joke, Listen, Mood, Nervous, Party, Pitch, Positive, Pranks, Reaction, Relief, School, Smile, Social, Soft, Sound, Story, Surprise, Talk, Thought, Tickle, Trick, Voice, Well-being, Witty
Yesterday's Answer: Hong Kong
Treasuries 27, 29, 31 and 33 through 49 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Lamb's 1-handed TD catch gives Dallas 23-16 win over Giants



EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.

(AP)—CeeDee Lamb was angry with himself in the second quarter after dropping a wide-open pass and costing the Dallas Cowboys a possible touchdown. It was just embarrassing.

The star Cowboys receiver more than made up for it with the game on the line, making a one-handed TD catch with 8:30 to play to cap a go-ahead drive that gave the Cowboys a 23-13 win over the surprising New York Giants on Monday night.

"He's CeeDee Lamb," Dallas quarterback Cooper Rush said after hitting Lamb four times on the 89-yard drive. "Guy's open a lot. Makes big-time catches. That fade catch was unbelievable. I'm sure he wants that other one back, but made tons of plays for us, like usual."

Ezekiel Elliott scored on a 1-yard run to ignite a comeback from a seven-point deficit and Brett Maher kicked three field goals as the Cowboys (2-1) beat the Giants (2-1) for the 10th time in 11 games and handed coach Brian Daboll his first loss.

"Didn't get it quite done tonight," Daboll said. "They made more plays than we did. Give them credit."

Rush threw for 210 yards,



Dallas Cowboys wide receiver CeeDee Lamb (88) makes a catch in the end zone for a touchdown against New York Giants cornerback Adoree' Jackson (22) during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game, Monday, Sept. 26, 2022, in East Rutherford, N.J.

knowing that I had to make this up in the back end of the game, I just wanted to step up."

Lamb actually made three plays at the end of the drive. He caught a 4-yard pass on fourth-and-4 from the Giants 41 with 10:27 to go. He added a 26 yard pass to the 1 and followed that with his great catch on the fade pattern for a 20-13 lead.

Saquon Barkley scored on a weaving 36-yard touchdown run that gave the Giants a brief 13-6 lead. Graham Gano added three field goal, including a 51-yarder with 3:37 to play to make it a one-score game.

The Giants got the ball back with 1:45 to play, but the series ended quickly with an interception by Trevon Diggs.

The Cowboys outgained the Giants 391-336 in an NFC East rivalry that saw the teams rush for almost as much as they gained passing. Dallas ran for 176 yards, Tony Pollard had 105 yards, and the Cowboys threw for 215. The Giants gained 167 on the ground and 196 in the air.

Dallas came into the game having allowed only one touchdown in each of its first two games, and the trend continued on Monday night. The defense hounded Daniel Jones, sacking him five times, with DeMarcus Lawrence tying his career high with three.

Jones finished 20 of 37 for 196 yards and also ran nine times for 79 yards. Barkley finished with 81 yards on 14 carries.

Maher sandwiched field goals of 26 and 28 yards around a 42-yarder by Gano to give Dallas a 6-3 halftime lead.

The Cowboys also got a big play on special teams as defensive lineman Dorance Armstrong blocked a 47-yard field goal attempt by Gano on New York's opening possession.

NFL ends Pro Bowl; skills competitions, flag game instead

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

The NFL has eliminated its full-contact all-star game and is replacing it with weeklong skills competitions and a flag football game.

The new event will be renamed "The Pro Bowl Games" and will feature AFC and NFC players showcasing their football and non-football skills in challenges over several days.

The 2023 Games will be held in Las Vegas, and the flag football game at Allegiant Stadium is Sunday, Feb. 5. That is one week before the Super Bowl in Arizona.

"Maybe a different format could bring a little juice, a little more energy," said New Orleans Saints running back Mark Ingram, a three-time Pro Bowl participant.

Peyton Manning and his Omaha Productions company will help shape programming and promote the event's content throughout the week. Manning, a 14-time Pro Bowl pick during his Hall of Fame career, will provide his perspective and will also be a part of the coaching staff for flag game.

"The Pro Bowl is something that we've been looking at for a while, really continuing to evolve," NFL executive Peter O'Reilly told The As-

sociated Press. "Coming out of last year's game, we really made the decision based on a lot of internal conversations, getting feedback from GMs and coaches, getting a lot of feedback from players. We think there's a real opportunity to do something wholly different here and move away from the traditional tackle football game. We decided the goal is to celebrate 88 of the biggest stars in the NFL in a really positive, fun, yet competitive way."

"The feedback very directly from guys who had been in the Pro Bowl recently was to keep the construct of the week, make sure you're having that multi-day element. It was overwhelmingly positive both from players as well as from clubs."

The Pro Bowl debuted in January 1951 in Los Angeles and stayed there for 21 seasons before the game moved to different cities from 1972-80.

Hawaii hosted from 1980-2009, and the game has had several homes in the years since, including Miami, Phoenix, Orlando and Las Vegas.

"The game was kind of silly, I guess," Saints two-time Pro Bowl offensive lineman Ryan Ramczyk said. "Guys weren't out there playing true football. Hopefully, there'll be a lot of interactions with the fans and guys will get their opportunity to go out there and show some

skills. I could see that being a good change."

Quality of play in the Pro Bowl has often been criticized. Players, understandably concerned about getting hurt, treat it as an exhibition more than competition. A flag football game could increase competition while avoiding potential injuries resulting from tackling, blocking and hitting.

"You definitely don't want to get hurt," Ingram said. "It's an all-star game, essentially, and you want to put on a good product for the fans and for yourself but at the same time, the season is over for you, essentially. You don't want to be going into an offseason or into a contract year and getting hurt in a Pro Bowl game."

The NFL has a major interest in flag football. The league partnered with the International Federation of American Football to bring flag football to The World Games in July with an eye on the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles.

"You tap into all the stuff that feels great about Pro Bowl week, the skills, the helmets off, the engagement and then culminate that, keeping the AFC-NFC construct, in something that's really important, which is flag football and that opportunity to have the best athletes in the NFL out there playing this game that

is so much about the future of our sport," said O'Reilly, the league's executive vice president, club business and league events. "It's been an evolution, but coming out of Las Vegas last year, we really focused on how do we reinvent and celebrate our all-stars even better."

Manning has always been an advocate for the Pro Bowl and supported it when the league considered drastic changes a decade ago.

"The Pro Bowl has always been a time to step back and celebrate the game of football with teammates, fans and family," Manning told the AP. "I'm thankful I can continue to be part of the week as all of us at Omaha Productions work with the NFL to reimagine The Pro Bowl Games. Making Sunday's game a flag football game is great to see. Youth football has been extremely important to me, and knowing NFL FLAG will help grow this sport, I hope boys and girls can see themselves playing the same game as the best players in the world."

Fan voting will still help determine the AFC and NFC team rosters. Tom Brady has the most invitations to the Pro Bowl with 15. Four players got 14 invites, including Manning. The East-West Shrine Bowl will be held at Allegiant Stadium on Thursday, Feb. 2,

including the 1-yard touchdown to Lamb, in winning his second straight game filling in for the injured Dak Prescott (thumb).

Lamb finished with eight catches for 87 yards, but he also dropped the potential 52-yard TD throw. He paced the sideline after the play and teammates walked over to encourage him.

"It was situation I had to deal with on my own, obviously I'm the one that dropped the ball for the guys," Lamb said. "So

Bucs relocating to Miami area due to potential impact of Ian

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—The Tampa Bay Buccaneers will relocate football operations to the Miami area in preparation for next weekend's game against the Kansas City Chiefs ahead of the potential impact of Hurricane Ian on Florida's Gulf Coast.

The Buccaneers announced Monday night that the team will leave Tampa on Tuesday and relocate in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

The Buccaneers are expected to practice at the Miami Dolphins' training complex in Miami Gardens, Florida, starting Wednesday and continue through this week's preparations, if necessary.

So far, there has been no change to the Buccaneers' game against the Chiefs, which is scheduled for Sunday at 8:20 p.m. at Raymond James Stadium. The NFL, along with the team and local officials, will monitor the situation.

Tuesday is a regular day off for players.

Asked if there was talk of Sunday night's game being moved, too, Tampa Bay coach Todd Bowles responded: "Possibly, if it gets to that."

Meanwhile, the NHL's Tampa Bay Lightning postponed preseason games scheduled to be played at home Wednesday against Carolina and Thursday vs. Nashville.

Judge held homerless, still at 60, Jays beat Yankees in 10th



TORONTO

(AP)—Aaron Judge and the New York Yankees will have to wait at least one more day to achieve home run history and crack some bubbly.

Judge stayed at 60 home runs, one shy of Roger Maris' American League record, and the Yankees' bid to clinch the AL East stalled when Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit an RBI single in the 10th to give the Toronto Blue Jays a 3-2 win Monday night.

Judge led off the game with a single, then struck out twice and walked twice as New York's winning streak ended at seven. The Yankees (94-59) would've sealed the division with a win.

"We treat every game as if it was a postseason game," Judge said. "First game of this year to this game tonight, nothing really changes."

Judge has now gone six games without a home run — his longest drought this season was nine games in mid-August.

He'll try again Tuesday night to match the AL mark of 61 set by Maris in 1961. Judge's batting average remained at .314 — he's leading in all three Triple Crown categories.

Guerrero's two-out single off Clarke Schmidt (5-5) scored automatic runner Cavan Biggio from second base. Toronto (87-67) won its third straight and increased its lead atop the AL wild-card race to 2 1/2 games over Tampa Bay.

Toronto is 17-8 in September. Among AL teams, only Cleveland (18) has more wins this month.

"We're not afraid to fail," Guerrero said through a translator. "We're having fun right now."

Even with first base open, Yankees manager Aaron Boone said he preferred to pitch to Guerrero rather than walk him and face Blue Jays designated hitter Alejandro Kirk.

"You don't really like either of those matchups, so it's pick your poison," Boone said.

Judge scored the opening run of the game on a first-inning sacrifice fly by Gleyber Torres, and walked in the third before being erased on a double play. Judge struck out looking in the sixth and went down swinging in the eighth.

With runners at first and second and two outs in the 10th, Blue Jays interim manager John Schneider replaced right-hander Anthony Bass and brought left-hander Tim Mayza (8-0) on to face Judge. Toronto intentionally walked Judge to load the bases for left-handed hitter Anthony Rizzo, who grounded out.

"I don't think I've been hitting lefties well all year, so you don't know what analytics is going to say," Judge said with a smile. "Once they made the move, I kind of had a feeling."

Back in right field after making his 22nd start at DH Sunday, Judge again left history on deck. Since connecting for No. 60 on Tuesday night against Pittsburgh to spark a ninth-inning comeback, he is 5 for 18 with three doubles, seven walks and eight strikeouts.

Judge made a fine catch on Bo Bichette's deep drive in the bottom of the 10th, then threw to second to keep Biggio from advancing.

Greeted with a mix of cheers and boos from the crowd of 34,307 before his first at-bat, Judge opened the game with a sharp single to right field that had an exit velocity of 112.9 miles per hour. Rizzo doubled Judge to third before Torres drove him in with a flyball to right.

Isiah Kiner-Falefa made it 2-0 with a two-out homer in the second, his fourth.

Making his second start for the Yankees since returning from the injured list, right-hander Luis Severino allowed two runs and three hits in four innings. Severino threw 76 pitches, 49 for strikes. He struck out four and walked three.

"He had a few walks in there, but I thought he was getting it where he wanted to for the most part," Boone said. "They just kind of outlasted him with some tough at-bats."

Braves 8, Nationals 0

In Washington, Bryce Elder threw a six-hit shutout for his first career complete game, and Atlanta defeated Washington to close within one game of the first-place New York Mets in the NL East and hand the Nationals their 100th loss of the season.

Matt Olson and Orlando Arcia hit two-run homers and Marcell Ozuna added a solo shot for Atlanta, which like New York has already clinched a playoff berth. Both teams have eight games remaining, including a head-to-head three-game series beginning Friday in Atlanta.

Elder (2-3) threw 106 pitches and allowed only one runner to reach third base while taming the Nationals in his eighth career start. He struck out six for the Braves, who have won three in a row and eight of 11.

The Nationals are a major league-worst 53-100, their first 100-loss season since going 59-103 in 2009.

Washington starter Cory Abbott (0-4) set down 10 of the first 11 Atlanta batters. He allowed five runs (four



New York Yankees' Aaron Judge tosses his bat as he is walked by Toronto Blue Jays starting pitcher Kevin Gausman during third-inning baseball game action in Toronto, Monday, Sept. 26, 2022.

earned) in five-plus innings while striking out a career-high seven.

Orioles 14, Red Sox 8

In Boston, Cedric Mullins homered on the second pitch of the game, Anthony Santander went deep twice and Baltimore outslugged Boston to gain a little ground

in the playoff race.

Gunnar Henderson hit a two-run homer and Mullins tripled in two runs for the Orioles (80-73), who moved within 3 1/2 games of idle Seattle for the final AL wild card. The surprising Orioles have nine games left in their turnaround season.

Austin Hays added a solo

shot for Baltimore in a game delayed by rain for 1 hour, 40 minutes.

Rob Refsnyder hit a three-run homer and J.D. Martinez had a solo shot for the last-place Red Sox (72-81). Boston dropped its season-high sixth consecutive game.

Spencer Watkins (5-6) got the victory with 4 1/3 innings

Biden praises Braves' 'unstoppable, joyful run' to 2021 win

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden said Monday the Atlanta Braves will be "forever known as the upset kings of October" for their improbable 2021 World Series win, as he welcomed the team to the White House for a victory celebration.

Biden called the Braves' drive an "unstoppable, joyful run." The team got its White House visit in with just over a week left before the 2022 regular season wraps up and the Major League Baseball playoffs begin again. The Braves trail the New York Mets by 1.5 games in the National League East but have clinched a wildcard spot for the MLB playoffs that begin Oct. 7. Chief Executive Officer Terry McGuirk said he hoped they'd be back to the White House again soon.

In August 2021, the Braves were a mess, playing barely at .500. But then they started winning. And they kept it up, taking the World Series in six games over the Houston Astros.

Biden called their performance of "history's greatest turnarounds."

"This team has literally been part of American history for over 150 years," said Biden. "But none of it came easy ... people counting you out. Heck, I know something about being counted out."

Players lined up on risers behind Biden, grinning and waving to the crowd, but the player most discussed was one who hasn't been on the team in nearly 50 years and who died last year: Hall of Famer Hank Aaron.

Hammerin' Hank was the home run king for 33 years, dethroning Babe Ruth with a shot to left field on April 8, 1974. He was one of the most famous players for Atlanta and in baseball history, a clear-eyed chronicler of the hardships thrown his way — from the poverty and segregation of his Alabama youth to the racist threats he faced during his pursuit of one of America's most hallowed records. He died in January at 86.

"This team is defined by the courage of Hank Aaron," Biden said.

McGuirk said Aaron, who held front office positions with the team and was one

of Major League Baseball's few Black executives, was watching over them.

"He'd have been there every step of the way with us if he was here," McGuirk added.

The president often honors major league and some college sports champions with a White House ceremony, typically a nonpartisan affair in which the commander in chief pays tribute to the champs' prowess, poses for photos and comes away with a team jersey.

Those visits were highly charged in the previous administration. Many athletes took issue with President Donald Trump's policies and rhetoric on policing, immigration and more. Trump, for his part, didn't take kindly to criticism from athletes or their on-field expressions of political opinions.

Under Biden, the tradition appears to be back. He's hosted the NBA champion Milwaukee Bucks and Super Bowl champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers at the White House. On Monday he joked about first lady Jill Biden's Philadelphia allegiances.

of relief.

Mullins hit a pitch from Connor Seabold (0-4) into the Baltimore bullpen for his 16th career leadoff homer and fifth this season.

Pirates 8, Reds 3

In Pittsburgh, Jack Suwinski hit a two-run double to key a four-run seventh inning, powering Pittsburgh past Cincinnati.

Suwinski turned on a slider from Derek Law (2-1), sending it to right field. Fellow rookie Oneil Cruz, who opened the inning with his third of four straight singles, and Miguel Andújar scored to put Pittsburgh ahead 4-2. Law hit Ke'Bryan Hayes with a pitch and walked Cal Mitchell before being replaced. Kevin Newman dropped an RBI single into right off Joel Kuhnel. Hayes scored on a sacrifice fly.

The last-place Pirates (57-97), who have won their past five against the Reds, must win at least six of their final eight games to avoid reaching 100 losses for the 10th time. Cincinnati has dropped four of five.

Yohan Ramirez (1-1) pitched the seventh and eighth for Pittsburgh, allowing two hits.

Cincinnati's TJ Friedl had a solo homer, his eighth of the season, before a rain delay halted play for 38 minutes after the top of the fourth.

"Like every Philly fan, she's convinced she knows more about everything in sports than anybody else," he said. He added that he couldn't be too nice to the Atlanta team because it had just beaten the Phillies the previous night in extra innings.

Press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre was later questioned about the team's name, particularly as other professional sports teams have moved away from names — like the Cleveland Indians, now the Guardians, and the Washington Redskins, now the Commanders — following years of complaints from Native American groups over the images and symbols.

She said it was important for the country to have the conversation. "And Native American and Indigenous voices — they should be at the center of this conversation," she said.

Biden supported MLB's decision to pull the 2021 All-Star Game from Atlanta to protest Georgia's sweeping new voting law, which critics contend is too restrictive.

Mazzulla says Celtics need time to heal in wake of Udoka ban

CANTON, Mass. (AP)—The Celtics were supposed to enter the preseason as one of the favorites to emerge from the Eastern Conference on the heels of their surprise run to the NBA Finals under rookie head coach Ime Udoka.

That was before Udoka was suspended for the upcoming season after a months-long investigation by an external law firm that found multiple violations of team policies for what sources told The Associated Press involve an inappropriate relationship with a woman in the organization.

The task of holding together the team and capitalizing on Boston's championship window has fallen to interim coach Joe Mazzulla, a 34-year-old assistant who was a candidate to land the Utah Jazz's coaching job.

He's had barely 72 hours to balance both learning of Udoka's suspension and being handed a dream opportunity, but Mazzulla said he will take his time giving people time to "feel and heal" as the team prepares to open training camp on Tuesday.

"You can't rush trust. You can't rush healing. You can't rush any of that," he said to a packed room at Celtics media day on Monday. "Regardless of what has happened, we have a great roster and we have a great opportunity. That's what I have to focus on."

Mazzulla has been a Celtics

assistant for two seasons. As a college player, he led West Virginia to a victory in the 2007 NIT and an upset over ninth-ranked Duke in the next year's NCAA Tournament. His only head coaching experience was a two-year stint from 2017-19 at Division II Fairmont State in West Virginia.

He will take charge of a Celtics roster that features only one player, 36-year-old Al Horford, his senior. Free-agent acquisition Danilo Gallinari is the next closest in age — five weeks younger than Mazzulla.

But what Mazzulla lacks in time on the bench he makes up for in endorsements from a roster full of players who beckoned Brad Stevens to keep his former assistant around following Stevens' promotion to president of basketball operations. Those same players remain adamant that Mazzulla can not only lead this team through difficult circumstances but also guide it back to the NBA Finals and another shot at a championship.

They also acknowledged that their emotions remain all over the place, having learned of the Udoka news on social media before getting basic information from the team that didn't amount to much more than was shared publicly. None of the players who addressed the media Monday had spoken with Udoka since his suspension was announced.

While they understand the privacy constraints that team officials are under, veteran



Boston Celtics interim coach Joe Mazzulla faces reporters photo during the NBA basketball team's Media Day, Monday, Sept. 26, 2022, in Canton, Mass. AP

Marcus Smart summed up the past handful of days in five words: "It's been hell for us."

Jaylen Brown said he's trying to remain optimistic as he digests everything.

"I believe in Joe. Joe believes in me. I've had conversations with him. I don't think he sees a limit," he said. "I think he's coming in excited. So I'm optimistic."

Mazzulla said his plan is to build on the foundation and culture already established and not try to shake things up too much.

All-Star Jayson Tatum said the fact that Mazzulla was so intricately involved from a bas-

ketball standpoint in helping the Celtics make the on-court jump they did under Udoka is key.

"It's somebody we're comfortable with over the past three or four years," Tatum said. "Same person, just in a different position now. But somebody we're familiar with and have a lot of respect for."

But Brown also acknowledged that the abrupt disclosure of Udoka's suspension and the minimal details will loom as camp gets underway.

"It definitely puts your leadership to the test. Not just mine, but all of ours," Brown said. "We'll see. Obviously, things haven't gone the way we ex-

pected, but that's life. The best thing you can do is move on."

For now, Mazzulla said he will look to foster a spirit of collaboration.

"I think we have to do this together," he said. "I don't think we need to speed up decisions or speed up identity. I think we have to be patient. We have to rely on the foundations that we built as far as relationships. And the foundations and habits that we built on the basketball court, because they're successful."

MOVING FORWARD

It wasn't a surprise for Brown to hear his name mentioned in media reports this summer involv-

ing possible trade discussions between Boston and Brooklyn regarding Kevin Durant. But he said he isn't letting it distract him coming off a season in which he was an integral part of the Celtics coming so close to winning an NBA championship.

"All I can say is that I'm here, I'm ready to play basketball," Brown said. "I'm in great shape. Probably the best shape in my life. So, I'm excited to start the journey. Things haven't gone at the start like we've wanted it to go. But that's life sometimes. So, we'll put our best foot forward and do what we've got to do."

NO REGRETS

Center Robert Williams III played through pain throughout the playoffs last season just months removed from surgery to repair torn cartilage in his troublesome left knee.

Now the fifth-year big man is expected to miss at least two months this season after undergoing another procedure on the same knee. He said Monday that he has no regrets about the decision to play.

"I made the decision as a man to keep playing," Williams said. "Regardless of the recurring injuries. ... I bought into that decision."

He said he has complete confidence in the training staff to get him back ready to play.

"It's a process I've been through with them a couple of times," Williams said. "It is a battle. It is tough. But I'm here for it."

SIS

From Page 20

came in first at 8:19, followed by Kaylen Ruth Taflinger of Oleai Elementary School at 8:27, then followed by SIS girls Scarlett Burrell at 8:44, Leilani Ruszala at 9:07, and Windsor Gross at 9:14.

In the boys high school division, the Torchbearers remained undefeated throughout the whole season as they conquered with a team score of 25. They were followed by Marianas High School with 45 points, and Saipan Southern High School with 49 points.

Pony Tang of MHS came in first with a time of 19:57, Jireh Wang of ACS came in second at 20:30 and Cody Shimizu of MHS came in at 20:39.

In the middle school girls division, the Torchbearers dominated the 2-mile run with a team score of 18, followed by the Geckos at 32 points, and Dandan Middle School with 46 points.

Addalee Taflinger of Dandan Middle School came in first with a time of 15:34, followed by Barbara Wang of ACS at 16:25, and Lucy Hong of ACS as well with a time of 17:50.

The middle school boys

division was dominated by Dandan Middle School with 47 points, Grace Christian Academy with 51 points, and Hopwood Middle School and SIS tied with 52 points came next.

Michael Miller of GCA came flying in first at 13:13, followed by Landen Taflinger of Dandan Middle School at 13:47, and Raffy Cai of ACS at 14:15.

SIS headmaster Dr. Ron Snyder said this about the team's performance, "I wish I could have been there for this meet but I am really happy to see the teams progressing. I think this will be an amazing championship

and look forward to many personal bests. Go Geckos!" said Snyder, who is currently in Europe.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. told *Saipan Tribune* that hosting the event "was amazing and an honor again to serve Northern Marianas Athletics, PSS, and our students once again this year. This is our second time in partnership with PSS, and NMA to run a cross country meet. Last year we held our first qualifier at Ladder Beach and ran around the airport perimeter fence line."

"All of us at Run Saipan were ecstatic to see the stu-

dents have so much fun and look forward again to next year. Thank you to all the volunteers, NMA, and Run Saipan personnel, and especially the coaches and parents for making it another great event. Special thanks to American Memorial Park for the venue," he said.

A total of 274 runners took

part in the event.

The next qualifier will take place this Saturday, Oct. 1, 6am, at the Saipan Country Club. The championships will be held on Oct. 15 at the same location.

NMA is coordinating the event along with the Public School System Athletic Program.

GUARDIANS

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Choi, David Ma'ase De Oro, Soo Ho Jin, Daniel Malus, RayPatrick McDonald, Jose Sablan, Landon Springer, David Ye, and Richard Zhou.

The Hilitais team 1 includes Mihhran Ahmed, Caleb Cabrera, Jose Canoy, Krisyan Enguerra, Twayne Kapwich, Thomas Lanzo, Alvin Lazar, K-Tu Louis, Arnelio Pingol, Christopher Sablan, Steven Tudela, Ra-

fael Viesca, and David Xiao.

With this win, SCS Guardians is at 1-0 and HMS 2 is at 0-2.

TMS-1, 5, FMS 0

Tanapag Middle School 1 defeated Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, 5-0, in the final game of the day in the Group B division.

The Tatagas and the Napu Riders duked it out on the field a long time before someone scored a goal.

Twenty minutes into the game, Javen Camacho of

TMS made a shot for the goal and landed it. A couple of minutes later, Cris Albero followed suit to gain a 2-0 lead over FMS.

FMS tried to retaliate by handling the ball but they made it just short of the net with each kick.

Their defense crumbled with the Tatagas plowing through the field, with their goalie unable to block another goal scored in the second half by Camacho. Camacho went on to score one more goal and followed by one

more from his teammate, to secure the win for the Tatagas, 5-0.

With this win, TMS is up 1-0 in the standings and FMS is 1-1.

Results of yesterday's middle school soccer matches will be posted in the next editions of *Saipan Tribune*.

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association coordinates the 2022-2023 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League along with the Public School System Athletic Program.

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coaches. This course would be an opportunity for that growth, to learn from and apply my roles in both capacities," Labausa said.

OSEP master educator Joey Miranda of the GNOC is among the facilitators of the course. Other facilitators include World Rugby coaching and strength conditioning educator Lemeki Savua of Fiji, CrossFit Level 2 trainer Dr. Ryan Claros, Guam Rugby Football Union development officer Paul Claros, and registered dietitian and nutritionist Lenora Makela.

Tonight's session of the course and the final day will be held at the GNOC office in Maite, while Days 2 and 3 will take place at the Custom Fit-

ness in Hagatna. The course is open to national sports federations in Guam and coaches under the Guam Department of Education, while the GNOC has also extended the invitation to the Northern Marianas Sports Association and its members.

"We would like to thank the GNOC, headed by its president Ric Blas, ONOC and OSEP, for providing this important opportunity for our athletes and coaches. As the NMSA works on helping each federation develop and strengthen their sports education and administration capabilities, exposure to courses like this will help our athletes and coaches acquire technical skills and professional knowledge, which they can eventually share to their peers," NMSA president Jerry Tan said. (PR)



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20 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

SIS tops HS girls and ES cross country

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan International School Geckos topped the high school girls and both elementary school divisions in the third 2022-2023 NMA-PSS All Schools Cross Country qualifier at the American Memorial Park last Saturday.

The high school Geckos girls team conquered the early morning 3-mile dewy course with a team score of 17 and plowed through the competition in the elementary school division with a team score of 29 for boys and 23 for girls.

The Top 3 for the girls high school division were Kaithlyn Chavez of SIS at 22:08, followed by teammate Tiana Cabrera at 24:08, and Mary Zhu, of Agape Christian

School, at 26:10

In the elementary school boys division, Quido Jambor of SIS topped it at 8:02, followed by the Torchbearers' Reyviel Escarlan at 8:10, and Kanoa Owens of Garapan Elementary School at 8:14.

In the elementary school girls division, three SIS girls made the Top 5 in the 1-mile run. Lovel Spateh of Brilliant Star School

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Some of Saipan International School's high school cross country team members pose for a photo before the third All Schools Cross Country Qualifier last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

Guardians win first MS soccer game

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan Community School won its first game in the 2022-2023 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League middle school Group A division, beating Hopwood Middle School 2, 4-0, last Thursday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



The Guardians had possession of the ball but were not able to score as they weaved and bobbed through the Hilitais defenders in the early goings. The first goal of the game wasn't made until David Ye found the back of the net in the 26th minute of the second half.

The Hilitais tried as they might to score, but couldn't get through the Guardians as

they guarded the goal with each try and kick from their attackers.

SCS' Richard Zhou scored a goal 35 minutes into the game for a 2-0 lead for the Guardians. HMS went on quietly in the game as David Ma'ase De Oro scooped up two more goals for the Guardians, for the final score of 4-0.

The Guardians include Jin
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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hopwood Middle School 2 soccer players kick the ball as they run through the field in last week's game which they lost to Saipan Community School at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

6 to attend strength and conditioning coach course

Pacific Mini Games medalist Antonette Labausa and five other NMI representatives will attend the Oceania Sport Education Program's Strength and Conditioning Coach Course that the Guam National Olympic Committee is hosting starting today until this Saturday.



Labausa, who won a silver medal in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 and also coached the NMI women's weightlifting team, will join CNMI Weightlifting president John Davis, wrestling's Jason Tarkong, bodybuilding's Derek Cutting, badminton's Nate Guerrero, and athletics' Nicholas Brennfleck in the four-session course in Guam.

The Strength and Conditioning Coach Course under OSEP is part of Oceania National Olympic Committees' initiative designed to develop sport education throughout the region. Other courses, which target community development and national level sports volunteers and professionals, focus on administration, coaching, team management, and trainer.

Labausa and Tarkong are excited to attend the course, which they believe will be very helpful in the develop-

ment of their respective sports.

"Wrestling is the hardest sport I have ever trained and competed in. Since then, I have studied several mixed martial arts and trained in different sports to include va'a competition. The Strength and Conditioning Coach Course will help us establish and maintain a strength and conditioning program not only for wrestling, but for all sports. Our goals are to im-

prove athletic performance, reduce athletic injuries, and teach lifelong fitness and movement skills. This course will provide aspiring coaches the skills to develop appropriate conditioning training for athletes and help meet the demands of their specific sport and develop plans and fitness tests to check progress of athletes," Tarkong said.

"Keeping a growth mindset is important to athletes and

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Brennfleck



Cutting



Davis



Guerrero



Labausa



Tarkong